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HAPPY ST. MAARTEN / ST. MARTIN DAY

VOL 25 NO. 147 Monday, November 9, 2015 U.S. 0.75 CENTS / Naf. 1.50 / EC\$ 1.75

First faith-based party to apply to contest upcoming elections

~ Wycliffe Smith leads party ~



Wycliffe Smith

PHILIPSBURG--The St. Maarten Christian Party will be the first faith-based party to apply to contest an election in St.

Maarten. The party, headed by retired pastor Wycliffe Smith, announced on Sunday that it would apply for registration at the offices of the Electoral Council to participate in the upcoming snap elections. The party was founded by clergymen Christian Faith Ministries International Edwin Arrindell Head Pastor and New Testament Baptist Church former Head Pastor Wycliffe Smith. The St. Maarten Christian Party said it had been as created to "serve the people for a change."

Concerned with the current state of affairs in and out of government, Smith said he had decided it was time to create a party that would "lead with integrity and exemplify the life, both public and private, that is rooted in Christian principles, norms and values. This means mindset with an alignment to core values and doing what is best for the country at large without compromising those values."

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Children of St. Maarten Hindu Organization perform a dance centred on paying homage to Lakshmi, the Hindu Goddess of Wealthy and Prosperity, St. Maarten Hindu Organization's third annual Diwali Nite Show on Saturday evening. Lakshmi also is associated with light and is worshipped especially during Diwali, the Festival of Light, which will be observed in St. Maarten on Wednesday. Story on page 5. (Jean Vallette photo)

Airport hosting unique St. Martin Day Air Show

AIRPORT--Princess Juliana International Airport SXM, will be organising a first-of-its-kind Air Show on Sunday, November 15, on Boardwalk Boulevard. The event will bring the curtain down on the St. Maarten/St. Martin Day celebrations.

"We'd like to think that St. Martin Day activities begin at

Continued on page 11

Academy in top ten ranking in CSEC Math, Music exams

CUL DE SAC--Two St. Maarten Academy students placed the country in the top- ten-subject ranking at the May/June 2015 regional Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations.

This is a first-time accomplishment for St. Maarten, said Head of the Division of Examinations Yvette Halley, who is also Local Registrar of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), under which CSEC falls.

Jabari York ranked fourth in Music, and Jieyi Liang ninth in Mathematics in the region out of thousands of candidates from 19 territories. They both earned grade ones with straight "A" profiles in their respective subjects. "This is a major accomplishment for the teens," Academy said in a press release on Sunday.

"This is also the first time that St. Maarten has offered Music as a CSEC examination subject. This is an accomplishment to be proud of as a country and one

Continued on page 8

First cross-border project to be launched early 2016

MARIGOT--The island's first major cross-border project, involving the construction of a sewage station in Cole Bay to serve both the French and Dutch sides, will be launched officially in January or February 2016, Director of

Regional Cooperation and European Affairs for the Collectivité Alex Richards disclosed.

Richards, speaking during a break in giving a talk on European Cooperation to political science students in the Lycée on

Saturday, said the 10-million-euro project was an appropriate subject to form part of the discussion on cooperation.

"It's a joint effort by both local governments and funded entirely by the European structural funds

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IN BRIEF

• Willemstad CABINET CRISIS
Curaçao's PS/PAIS/PNP/Sulvaran coalition is trying to establish a new majority in Parliament after PAIS fraction member Marilyn Moses pulled her support from the current government on Friday. Page 7.

• Schiedam Pearl Awards
The seven St. Maarteners who had been nominated for a Dutch Caribbean Pearl Award were disappointed when it became evident that not one of them had won. Page 4.

• Philipsburg TEEN TIMES COMPETITION
The young writers who make up the staff of youth publication Teen Times say they will continue giving back to the schools and their peers through their annual Interscholastic Talent competition. Page 9.

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Airport Security Officers start basic law enforcement course

AIRPORT-The Security officers at the Princess Juliana International Airport SXM, begin a seven-month course in Basic Law Enforcement Safety and Security Training (BLESST) on Monday, November 9, the airport has announced.

The course will be conducted by the St. Maarten Justice Academy. This extensive training will be directed toward airport security personnel at the supervisory level.

The airport is "committed to providing its frontline workers with the necessary knowledge to better equip themselves in carrying out their essential tasks of providing a safe and secure airport environment," said airport Security Department Manager Jerry Sprott.

Spratt explained that upon successful completion of this recognised training, all candidates would be certified in carrying out the respective law enforcement duties at the airport.

"All over the world, generally, airport security is handled by government. That is why the collaboration with the Ministry of Justice is of vital importance, although our security personnel are employed directly by SXM Airport," said Managing Director Regina LaBega.

"This training course will not only harmonise the skills of our security officers with those of the security agencies of government, but also provide additional confidence that safety and security remain the most important task of the airport."



The campaign for Bonaire's December 18 constitutional referendum has started. The only question will be whether residents qualified to vote agree with the current content given to the earlier choice for direct ties with the Netherlands. Those supporting the "No" option are most visible for now.



Blue Mall and jewellery store Divine have become the first to partner with the Queen Awards, to be held November 19. The event is meant to recognise women entrepreneurs who have made remarkable progress in their entrepreneurial endeavours. It is one of the main events of Entrepreneurship Week 721. Blue Mall will host the event and provide door prizes from its affiliates, while Divine has provided items for the awards. The United Nations officially recognised November 19 as Women's Entrepreneurship Day and ambassadors have been appointed in some 140 countries to further the mission of celebrating, empowering, and supporting women entrepreneurs. Ife Badejo pictured, is the local ambassador and a Youth Ambassador will be chosen at the event. For more, see www.facebook.com/WEDSXM.

Academy in top ten

Continued from page 1.

to be continued," Halley wrote to Education Minister Rita Bourne-Gumbs on Friday.

The achievement is especially significant for Academy's new principal Tallulah Baly-Vanterpool, who took over the helm of the institution in 2014, and launched a mission with her new management team to take the Academy to higher heights by improving the quality of passes, the school said in the release. Her signature theme is "choose excellence" and that call was not only for students but also for teachers and parents alike, because "together we achieve more," the principal said.

Baly-Vanterpool, recognising the musical talents of Jabari - the younger son of steel-pannist Isidore "Mighty Dow" York, pushed to help him succeed "at all costs."

"Together with the school's music teacher Dennis Tjon, the principal contacted veteran CXC music teacher Mrs. Jacobs-Richardson of Anguilla, to help prepare Jabari for the examination which included performance, arranging and composing an original piece, as well as listening and appraising. The teachers were heartened by Jabari's willingness to do the work without complaint."

Liang, a science student, "demonstrated great work ethics from the time she entered the school. She was dedicated, determined and a hard-working student,



Jabari York



Jieyi Liang

thus her placement in the region is well deserved," Baly-Vanterpool said.

Liang wrote nine subjects at CSEC, securing three ones in Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Physics; three twos in Information Technology, Biology and Chemistry; and three grade threes in Human and Social Biology, English A, and Spanish. She also earned a C grade in the Cambridge IGCSE examination in Dutch.

Baly singled-out teachers of Mathematics Alberick Arrendell - Head of Department, Olatunde Dalrymple who prepared Liang for the Mathematics and Additional Mathematics exams, Iris Derrick, Suja Pereppadan and Darelyn Santos all for jobs well done.

St. Maarten Academy entered 82 candidates in 18 subject areas for the May/June 2015 regional exams. Close to half, 48 per cent, of the candidates secured grade one passes in Mathematics, an improvement from 29 per cent the previous year; while 25 - 31 per cent got grade two in the subject, up from 28 per cent in 2014. This made the Department of Mathematics, a proud moment for all of one of nine in the school,

the top performing department.

"I am happy that we have a principal who fosters an environment that allows teachers to be free creatively in challenging our students to think outside the box and strive for excellence," said Arrendell.

There is a six-point grading scheme for CSEC, with grade one being the highest a candidate can attain. According to CXC, a grade one shows that the candidate has "a comprehensive grasp of key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus." A grade two shows the candidate has a "good" grasp of those descriptors. Most universities accept grades one, two and three at the general and technical proficiencies for matriculation. Academy only submits candidates for the general proficiency.

"I would like to recognise the FAVE Board, all teachers, parents and students who made this achievement possible. They took that leap of faith with us just over a year ago and trusted that we would steer the Academy in the right direction. This achievement is a proud moment for all of us," the principal said.

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Notice Information Intermittent Service Interruption between Tropicana Casino Cole Bay and Lowlands

Due to equipment upgrade which is scheduled to take place in the areas between Tropicana Casino in Cole Bay to Lowlands, Cable TV service in these areas will be affected intermittently for brief periods between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm from Wednesday, November 4th until Friday, November 13th, 2015.

The upgrade is to balance the network signal and also prepare these areas for our Hybrid Fiber Coaxial (HFC) network.

We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause our subscribers.

Customers are encouraged to visit St. Maarten Cable TV's Facebook page and the website for additional information and other pertinent facts.

The website address is <http://www.sxmccable.com/>.

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