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More justice workers get placement letters

PHILIPSBURG--The St. Maarten Police Force KPSM, Customs, National Detectives, Staff Bureau, Financial Information Unit and the Immigration and Border Protection Services staffers have received their offer letters over the weekend, Justice Minister Anna Richardson said on Tuesday in an update on the placement progress.

She said having completed the larger departments, the final department slated to receive offer letters is the Pointe Blanche Prison and House of Detention including the Miss Lalie Center.

"The dedication and commitment to serve the interest of all Justice workers are evident as the Human Resource staff worked throughout the night to ensure the continued issuance of offer letters over the Easter weekend. Considering the complexity of

the calculations to be made, the required information from payroll systems and the justice workers are required to ensure correct calculations are made. This work will continue at this rate until all eligible Justice workers for retroactive pay, under the prior executed Covenant Agreement in this regard, have received calculations for review," it was stated in the update.

Minister Richardson stated, "I am appreciative of all the work and efforts of workers within the Justice chain, for without the active contribution of the eligible workers, it is impossible to complete calculations with consideration of actual circumstances. This is teamwork and without collaborations, none of this would have been possible. We have a bit more to go, but we can see the

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Students of Governor De Graaff School with a hologram.

Digital lessons for children on Statia, Saba and Bonaire

SABA/ST. EUSTATIUS--Primary schoolchildren and even some toddlers on St. Eustatius were shown parts of digital life they probably only knew from television and the Internet. They created holograms, built self-driving cars, made three-dimensional creations with only a pen, and learned the first steps of programming a robot.

They exchanged videos with students in the Netherlands, and talked about subjects such as cyber bullying, how to recognise fake news, how technology is part of everyday life and how it can be a career, too.

Both pupils and teachers were very enthusiastic and eager to learn more about digital literacy in the classroom. "It was so cool. I learned how to get a robot to do exactly what I wanted," an enthusiastic pupil said.

Nowadays, children are born into an online world and seem to manage this environment quite naturally and effortlessly. However, knowing all the possibilities that technology has to offer, recognis-

ing the scope and dangers of having an online identity, and living in the digital world in a safe manner, are things that need to be taught.

That is why, just like reading, writing and mathematics, digital literacy and citizenship will soon be part of the compulsory curriculum in primary education. Mediawegwijs is helping schools and teachers on Bonaire, Statia and Saba in providing a complete lesson programme on digital literacy that also incorporates basic skills.

Five young Dutch teachers were invited by the schools on Statia to showcase their digital literacy les-

sons. With their cool high-tech gadgets, they captured the attention and curiosity of the enthusiastic students from day one. "The kids looked at us as if we were superheroes with our robots and Virtual Reality glasses," one of the teachers said.

"The proud look on their faces when they actually create something with technology is priceless," said Golden Rock School teacher Maruska Simmons about her pupils.

Parents were also involved and showed great interest in the role

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Vessel propeller severs foot of UberSoca Cruise passenger

PHILIPSBURG--The fun and excitement of the UberSoca Cruise sailing experience to St. Maarten was marred on Tuesday when the lower leg of a male passenger was severed in a boating accident.

Police spokesperson Ethelwoldus Josepha told *The Daily Herald* that it was his understanding that the passenger in question was either exiting or embarking a water taxi when he unexpectedly slipped in between the pier and the water taxi causing the blade from the propeller of the vessel to severely injure his leg.

Images and videos of the incident that had been circulating on social media appeared to show the lower right leg of the

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IN BRIEF

• **Mullet Bay
BIKER CAUSES
BIG SCARE**

Beach-goers enjoying the Easter Monday holiday went into a frenzy in the early evening hours after a biker fired shots into the air. Page 4.

• **Simpson Bay
TASK FORCE
VISITS WINAIR**

Windward Island Airways International WINAIR provided information on its operations and facilitated a tour of its facilities to the task force of the Dutch Caribbean Cooperation of Airports during a site visit on Friday, March 31. Page 4.

• **Willemstad
SUSPECT
ARRESTED**

Police in the Netherlands have arrested a man suspected of murdering Dutch musician with Antillean roots Ruchendell "Boechi" Windster. Page 13.

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Fire Department responds to a garbage fire on Windsor Road

CAY BAY--Piles of uncollected garbage caught fire on Windsor Road last night just before 10:00pm, creating flames and clouds of toxic smoke.

The fire was located at the very top end of Windsor Road where huge amounts of garbage were spread on the side of the road adjacent to a piece of land, but appeared not to be near any houses. Many residents came out of their houses to watch the firemen working to put out the blaze. A second fire truck arrived at 10:30pm to assist.

Police were also on the scene to close off the road in the vicinity of the fire. The cause of the fire could not be determined immediately. One angry resident blamed the negligence of the garbage collectors who they said had not been to collect on Windsor Road

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Pupil and parent working with a 3D pen at Seventh-Day Adventist School.

Digital lessons for children

Continued from page 1.

that technology and innovation can play in their children's future. This was a real eye-opener for some. "I never thought of the option of my son becoming a programmer, a job he can do remotely while living in St. Lucia close to his family," one of the parents said.

Mediawegwijs will visit schools in Saba from Thursday, April 13, and Bonaire from May 2.

Mediawegwijs offers complete and funded lesson packages for schools that can easily be implemented in their teaching programmes.

Founder and creator Ilse Godtschalk has a teaching background herself. "I know from experience the amount of work teachers have on their plates and how challenging it can be to keep the students' attention. Teachers tell me how much they appreciate that these lessons don't make them feel like they have another extra task, and that's exactly what we try to achieve with our digital literacy lessons."



A messy situation had to be cleaned up on Arch Road after what was reportedly the mud spill from a dump truck in the area. Reports indicate that the tail gate of the truck may have possibly opened causing the contents of the truck to fall out on the Arch Road near the former St. Maarten Cable TV office. The road was blocked to facilitate clean-up efforts.



Dauphin Telecom experienced network disruption over Easter

MARIGOT--Telecommunications provider Dauphin Telecom says its network experienced disruptions over the Easter weekend.

Management explained that the transport cable linking the French West Indies to the North American continent was affected by a DDoS attack at the beginning of the weekend. A DDoS attack infiltrates a website or a network by flooding it with malicious traffic to make it unavailable.

"At the same time, our technical services have put in place reinforced security solutions that guarantee the protection of data, which allowed us to restore all services at the end of Monday," management said. "The implementation of additional security solutions is underway."

Dauphin Telecom regrets the inconvenience caused and will give further updates. More information can be obtained by calling 0801-100-555.

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