

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

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tween students who may well be top performers and access to higher education, in particular when lack of the Dutch nationality gets in the way.

I Am SXM founder Member of Parliament (MP) Tamara Leonard described a situation of students falling through the cracks by not being eligible for Government scholarships. This even happens to local students who, through no fault of their own, are not Dutch nationals, even if they are born in St. Maarten to one or more foreign but tax-paying parents.

The initiative aims to offer 10 scholarships at USM for academic-oriented high school graduates, another five for a pre-USM course for technical oriented students and three to five international scholarships.

This is provided enough funds are raised and Leonard said the idea had been very well received so far by the business community, a vital source of sponsorship. Leonard said some US \$25,000 had been pledged during the first day of fundraising within the business community.

She also said both Minister Bourne-Gumbs and USM President and Interim Dean of Academics Dr. Francio Guadeloupe had taken to the idea immediately.

USM will support the project in a wide sense of the word, including contributing to awareness and fundraising activities, and essentially offer the national rate regardless of a scholarship-receiver's legal status. One of the tasks stipulated in the MOU is that I Am SXM Foundation/Education For Us All will provide guest lectures.

USM sees the agreement also as taking a vital step in tailoring its educational programmes to meet the needs of the island's inhabitants.

Dr. Guadeloupe said at the signing ceremony that part of making sure St. Maarten "remains a decent society" is ensuring "human dignity and the ability to self-realise. Education is key" to that process and students

should not be made to feel like second-class citizens through no fault of their own.

Minister Bourne-Gumbs said the project, which she endorsed, fell in line with the ministry's aims. She said the Ministry had to commit to certain guidelines, stick to criteria and deal with a tight budget, contributing to the reality of the situation. She commended the parties for doing their part towards ensuring education and providing second chances.

She also suggested that funding should be made into a revolving system, so that more students could benefit, with less dependency on fundraising. This would entail students paying back at least part of the scholarship, which would be geared towards continuing the programme.

Leonard said she originally had started I Am SXM during pre-elections as a campaign, but that the causes related to all of St. Maarten and were

not meant to be divided by any political lines. Part of putting distance between the two concepts was the subsequent Education For Us All.

Education For Us All President Julian Lake said new education opportunities in principle provided much needed hope for youths and the chance to expand horizons. He encouraged students to apply.

Applications should be made through the I Am SXM Facebook page for now. Applicants who meet the criteria, also described in detail on that page, will be determined through a selection committee, management and a board. The shortlist of viable applicants will be picked randomly at a public event that also will serve as a fundraiser. As for the smaller number of international scholarships, one student also will be chosen by Art Saves Lives Foundation.



The caved-in trench on Queen Beatrix Street.

# Heavy rains cause dangerous conditions on Statia's roads

ST. EUSTATIUS--The heavy rains that lasted for hours on Thursday not only delivered some much-needed water in empty cisterns, but also caused some damage to the roads on St. Eustatius.

Currently, road works are being carried out by a contractor for the laying of underground cables for St. Eustatius Utility Company's (STUCO's) solar energy park.

The tropical wave, which passed through the region on Thursday, not only caused rainwater washing the dirt back in where it had been dug out, but one of the trenches on Queen Beatrix Street caved in under pressure of the rushing water.

The caved-in trench is located in the vicinity of the Tax Office. Chief of Police Maurice van Velzen said Friday, that the area poses a significant risk for bodily

harm should the street collapse while someone is trying to enter the Tax Office.

"Not only would the fall pose a risk of injury, there is also loose concrete and asphalt that could potentially land on top of them," the Police Chief said, adding that the street would be cordoned off with red-and-white ribbon to alert the public that it was dangerous to cross the area.



A man in a blue shirt is seen held by Gendarmes following a robbery in Lacoste Boutique in the West Indies Mall late Friday afternoon.

# Two held for stealing from Lacoste boutique

MARIGOT--Gendarmes arrested two men suspected of shoplifting from Lacoste Boutique in West Indies Mall at around 5:00pm Friday.

The suspects appeared to have been arrested further down from the Mall close to La Vie en Rose Restaurant, as they were about to make their escape in a grey car.

One well-dressed man in a blue shirt was handcuffed

and put into a Gendarmerie vehicle, and Gendarmes were seen holding some of the recovered stolen items.

Commandant Sébastien Manzoni said he only had limited information, as the situation was still ongoing early in the evening.

"This was a robbery without weapons and there were no injuries," he confirmed. "But there may be other persons involved and it is still evolving."

A car, possibly the one used by the thieves, was towed away from the scene.

**Hospital Visiting Hours**

Medical/Surgical, ObGyn and Pediatric wards  
 11:30am-12:30pm  
 3:30pm-4:30pm *Children may visit*  
 6:00pm-7:30pm

Intensive Care Unit  
 10:00am-10:20am  
 3:00pm-3:30pm  
 8:00pm-8:20pm

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**DUTCH SIDE PHARMACIES WEEK OPENING HOURS**

**BUSHROAD PHARMACY, 542-4900**  
 Mon-Fri 8:00am - 6:00pm, Sat 9:00am - 5:00pm

**CAY HILL PHARMACY, 543-1119**  
 Mon-Fri 8:30am - 6:00pm

**CENTRAL DRUGSTORE, 542-2321**  
 Mon-Fri 08:00am - 6:00pm, Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm,

**DUTCH QUARTER PHARMACY, 542-1980**  
 Mon-Fri 8:00am - 6:00pm, Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm

**FRIENDLY ISLAND PHARMACY, 544-4290**  
 Mon-Fri 8:15am - 6:30pm, Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm

**FRONT STREET PHARMACY, 543-8800**  
 Mon-Fri 8:30am - 6:00pm, Sat 9:30am - 5:30pm

**MAHO PHARMACY, 545-3200**  
 Mon-Fri 8:00am - 9:00pm, Sat 9:00am - 1:00pm & 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**ORANGE GROVE PHARMACY, 544-2013**  
 Mon-Fri 8:00am - 6:30pm, Sat 9:00am - 1:00pm

**PHILIPSBURG PHARMACY, 542-3001**  
 Mon-Fri 7:30am - 7:00pm Sat 9:00am - 5:00pm

**ST. PETERS PHARMACY, 542-0187**  
 Mon-Sat 8:00am - 7:00pm

**SIMPSON BAY PHARMACY, 544-3653**  
 Mon-Fri 8:15am - 7:30pm, Sat 9:00am - 1:00pm

**THE DRUGGIST PHARMACY, 545-2777**  
 Mon-Fri 8:30am - 7:30pm, Sat 10:00am - 7:00pm

**SUN/HOLIDAYS**  
 11:00am - 01:00pm BUSH ROAD PHARMACY  
 10:30am - 02:30pm FRONT STREET PHARMACY  
 09:00am - 12:00pm MAHO PHARMACY  
 06:00pm - 09:00pm MAHO PHARMACY  
 10:00am - 12:00pm PHILIPSBURG PHARMACY  
 05:00pm - 07:00pm SIMPSON BAY PHARMACY  
 01:00pm - 03:00pm THE DRUGGIST PHARMACY

In the event of a medical emergency after normal business hours please go to the Emergency Room of the St. Maarten Medical Center.

	<b>Pick 2</b>	<b>Pick 3</b>	<b>Pick 4</b>	<b>SECOND PRIZE</b>
	1st 18	1st 318	1st 7318	
	2nd 82	2nd 182	2nd 8182	
	3rd 54	3rd 154	3rd 0154	<b>THIRD PRIZE</b>
Date: 09-10-2015	win \$40	win \$500	win \$4000	