

More Color!
More Photos!

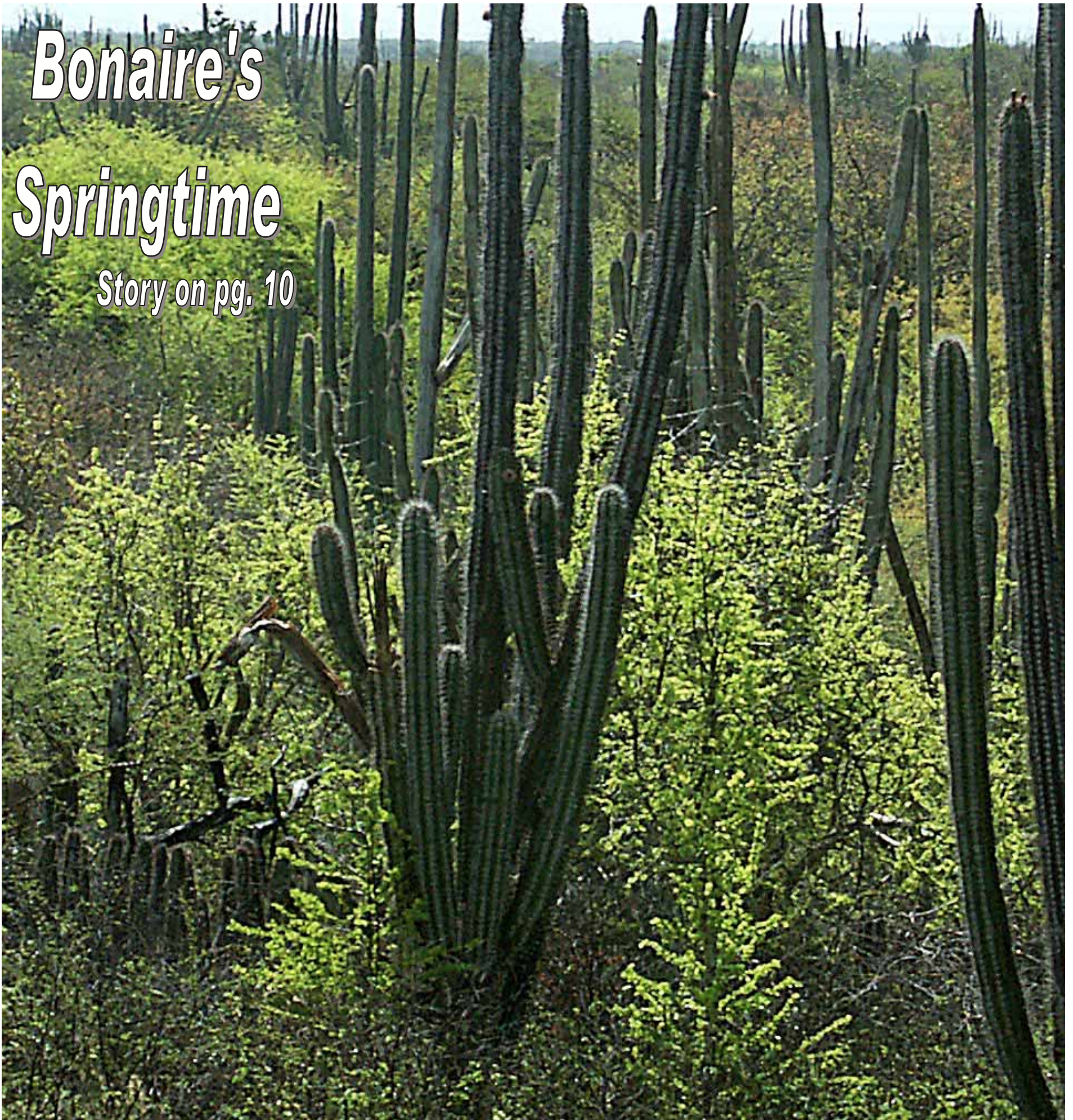
BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Bonaire's

Springtime

Story on pg. 10

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Bonaire News



Elys Santaris photo

► Many Bonairean youngsters said farewell to parents and friends at Flamingo Airport last week as they departed for The Netherlands to continue their studies. At least 13 students received scholarships. Some of these students are pictured above.



Herald photo

The cable comes ashore

There's a new optical fiber cable between Bonaire and Curaçao. The ship, *Tycom Reliance*, lay offshore the western side of Bonaire last week while the hookup to land was completed. Bonaire National Marine park personnel monitored the work to ensure minimal damage to the undersea environment. This cable compliments the existing Amerigo Vespucci cable that comes ashore south of Kralendijk.

► **Veteran politician, Robby Beukeboom**, was finally sworn in as Member of Bonaire's Island Council for the Democratic Alliance party after the Court of Justice ruled in his favor.



The Patriotiko party majority in the Island Council had refused to approve his credentials because he is the life partner of the Island Secretary which would create a pr conflict. The island Council in now at its full 9-member membership again.

► Over 1,700 years ago, on August 10, 258, a young Christian deacon of Rome was martyred by the Emperor Valerian by being roasted alive on a gridiron. And that night as his mourners carried his body away **dozens of streaks of light fell from the sky**, which prompted his followers to believe that even the heavens were weeping for their dear friend. And every year since almost to the date the skies weep again on what many call the night of St. Lawrence's Tears. Read more about this event, the annual Perseid meteor shower, in the Bonaire Sky Park column on page 19.



Tiara Air first flight

► **Tiara Air initiated non-stop service between Aruba and Bonaire last week.** The inaugural flight carried 33 passengers including management members, officials and press. They fly the comfortable Short 360 aircraft, the "wide body" of the commuter airline fleet. Flights are on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday with the fare around \$100 each way for the 45-minute flight. Add airport taxes in Aruba of \$33.50 and

Bonaire \$25. The frequent and inexpensive US-Aruba flights in coordination with Tiara Air offer yet another way to travel to Bonaire. For more information go to www.tiara-air.com/.

► "The global **decline of reef-building corals** is of particular concern" says Professor John F. Bruno. "Infectious diseases are thought to be key to this mass coral death and many reef ecologists suspect that high ocean temperatures contribute to the increased incidence and severity of disease outbreaks. This hypothesis is supported by local observations—for example, that some coral diseases become more prevalent in the summertime—but it has never been tested at large spatial scales or over relatively long periods." Until now.

In a recent paper in the journal, *PLoS Biology*, a peer-reviewed journal published online by the Public Library of Science, author John F. Bruno of the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his team used satellite data and six years of coral disease and coral cover data to assess whether warm water temperature is related to the frequency of coral disease across approximately 1,000 miles of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. They discovered a correlation with an emerging disease known as white syndrome. This has been present on the Great Barrier Reef since at least 1998, but its **frequency increased 20-fold in 2002**. While similarly threatened, Bonaire's reefs are in better condition than many because of an almost-50-year-long preservation effort.

The authors note that this rise came after the Barrier Reef had experienced its second warmest year in the 20-year satellite record, and indeed, Bruno and colleagues found that outbreaks of white syndrome were most prevalent following warm years—suggesting that the increased temperatures caused physiological stress and lowered immune system response in corals. For more information contact Professor Bruno. E-mail: jbruno@unc.edu.

► **MCB (Bonaire) issued a special alert about fraudulent emails that may be sent to bank customers in an attempt to obtain information for illegal purposes.** "These requests can look very real and can come from what appear to be legitimate banks. Unfortu-

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nately this is all too common in today's Internet banking environment," they advise.

"We will never send you unsolicited emails asking for confidential information, such as your password, PIN, credit card and account numbers. We will never ask you to validate or restore your account access through email. Further, we strongly recommend you do not respond to emails of this nature or emails asking you to verify confidential information by clicking on a link in the email, even if the link leads to a modified webpage that looks like a Bank site."

Contact your bank as soon as possible if you fall into one of these traps. Internet fraud can even happen on Bonaire.

(Continued on page 6)

Bonaire's Salt

“Bonaire’s solar salt is the best in the world,” says Bret Schuttpelz, Cargill Salt Works Manager. Jan Gielen, retired Works Manager and Consultant for Cargill adds that it’s produced from pure sea water and Bonaire’s near-perfect climate. Nothing is added. The production is slow and steady. Bonaire’s transparent salt crystals are the most beautiful salt crystals available and most desirable for industrial processes demanding sodium chloride. Add to that Bonaire’s deep-water loading pier for fast, economical shipping and you have a combination that allows Bonaire salt to command a premium price.

Salt company management prides itself on its environmental responsibility. That’s why they were so concerned when the nutrient survey recently completed discovered a high concentration of ammonia, a potent natural fertilizer, present in high concentrations in one of the salt works’ shallow crystallizer ponds. They were puzzled because the concentrations measured would mean that their salt production was out of balance and would drop. But that wasn’t happening. Further investigation, which is still under way, indicates that standard nutrient measurement techniques are not appropriate when the salt concentration is very high in the samples



The sea water used to produce salt enters from the east side of Bonaire, The head of the Pekelmeer is rich in birds and mangroves. Locked gates block vehicles.



Manager Bret Schuttpelz and Consultant Jan Gielen inspect the concrete-hard bottom of a drained crystallizer pond.

measured. An alternate methodology was discovered and the measurements will be repeated as soon as possible.

The nutrient study researchers speculated that leaks from the crystallizer ponds could spread ammonia-based nutrients, if they were indeed present, onto the near offshore reef.

However, we observed that the lining of the ponds appeared to be leak proof concrete-hard solid salt. Company officials said that crystallizer leaks were not permitted because that would mean

their high concentration salt solution, produced over months of evaporation of sea-water, would be wasted. The strength of the lining must be considerable because it supports the very heavy machinery used to harvest the salt.

A substantial portion of the Cargill salt property is devoted to the flamingo sanctuary. In a good year 2,000 flamingos will be born and raised in the Peklemeer salina preserve removed from poaching and other human traffic. Not generally known is that the area is a refuge for numerous other birds besides flamingos. No kitesurfing or fishing is permitted, even in the non-sanctuary parts of Pekelmeer. The area is a 1994 Ramsar Treaty Site internationally protected. A low dike was added years ago to minimize the effects of natural freshwater runoff during heavy rains which would threaten the hatchlings during the breeding season in April, May, and June. There are substantial stands of mangroves in the area



Electric pumps maintain proper flows and levels. Works water flow is from east to west

as well.

Salt production began here in the 17th century. The Dutch issued regulations for

(Continued on page 7)

Obelisk Restoration

A restored obelisk was officially unveiled near Kabayé along the south coast in mid-July. The obelisk is one of four in the area that served as reference marks for the ships that transported salt from Bonaire. Today they are more often used to locate dive sites.

Their colors were orange, red, white and blue in connection with the colors of the Dutch flag's red, white and blue with an orange streamer.

The Bonaire Economic Platform Foundation had the idea of restoring the obelisks and rebuilding the white one that was destroyed by a hurricane years ago. A group of young people from BONAI, under the direction of Dr. Jay Haviser, helped the foundation paint the obelisks.

The Cargill Salt Company, building contractor Sidney Manuel, artist Ady Figaroa and the government's Culture Department also assisted. Commissioner of Culture, Maritsa Silberie, unveiled the white obelisk.



The Economic Platform Foundation is aware that protecting the monuments is of vital importance and is willing to continue with projects of this kind. The next one is to restore Bonaire's first airport near Subi Blanku to its original form and architecture. □
Press Release, story & photos

Joint Court Report

The justice system of the Dutch Caribbean is administered by a Joint Court based on Dutch procedure. Last week it issued its annual report that contained some remarkable facts.

Of all the divorces filed with the Joint Court last year, the majority were from Aruba: 616 versus 418 in Curaçao. In **Bonaire 43 divorces** were filed and in St. Maarten, 162. The figures in the Annual Report show more variations and peculiarities between the six islands. "And it raises the necessary questions," concluded the former Head Judge Luis de Lannoy in the preface of the annual report. (de Lannoy was succeeded last month by Lisbeth Hoefdraad).



Former Head Judge Luis de Lannoy

"Compared to all the couples in the Antilles together," de Lannoy continued, "more couples in Aruba get a divorce. Is there something wrong with the conjugal fidelity and the wedded happiness in Aruba? And why in **Bonaire are there more requests for custody placement (40)** than in Curaçao and Aruba (38 and 40)? These islands have more inhabitants. Does Bonaire have a problem with growing youngsters?"

De Lannoy also briefly mentioned the appearance of the Supervisory Council of the Bar. Last year, as many as 102 of these cases were filed in Curaçao, while Aruba filed only 12 and St. Maarten 55. "Are the lawyers in Curaçao much more wicked and do they make more mistakes than their Aruban learned friends," wonders de Lannoy. The necessary interested information can in any case be filtered from the figures and tables presented. "It looks like 'Sudoku,'" he says. "I wish you much reading and puzzle pleasure."

On all the islands last year, more lawsuits were submitted than could be handled. However, in general the differences weren't so big. In Aruba for example, 2,339 new criminal cases were entered on the docket and 2,282 trials were settled. In Curaçao this was 1,613, with 1,464 settled. **In Bonaire there were 174** with 163 settled; and in St. Maarten 1,692 and 1,662 settled.

In order to calculate the average completion time of a case, a random spot check of 10% of all the closed cases was made. The results in civil procedures are 151 days in Bonaire, 56 days in Curacao, and 93 in St. Maarten. In lawsuit procedures, these were 6 days in St. Maarten and 29 days in Aruba. Tax cases took 617 days on all the islands. □ Press Release

Prokids Freestyle Be There! THIS WEEKEND

Bonaire is blessed with having one the most perfect bays for windsurfing. With solid steady trades blowing onshore, shallow, gin clear water and two professional shops, it's windsurf heaven. Local sailors started windsurfing in the 80s and over the years the sport grew, windsurf tourism expanded, local talent went Pro and the island hosted three professional windsurfing events. The youth of Bonaire starts sailing young, right out of diapers sometimes. The local talent has grown to over 70 kids windsurfing. Many travel regionally to events in the Caribbean and beyond. Team Bonaire has visited the hottest sites including Maui, Australia, Barbados, France, Germany, Austria, Turkey and beyond. The word Bonaire is synonymous with excellence in the windsurf world. Because local windsurf guru, Elvis Martinus, recognized the youth in windsurfing, he spearheaded the challenge to create a Pro Kid Event in Bonaire. Entering its third year it has grown annually. In 2006 it hosted over 100 kids from around the world.

The event, set for August 1 to 5, is expected to eclipse all others with over 150 competitors expected. Windsurfers flock to this event knowing they can expect fabulous freestyle conditions, great parties, camaraderie and fun. Come enjoy the festivities, the competition and the beach culture. Bon Bini! □ *Ann Phelan*



Ayo, Phil

Bonaire lost one of its true benefactors and a genuine philanthropist with the passing of **Phil Katzev** on July 17. Although Phil had been ill for quite some time news of his death came suddenly and as a shock to all of us. Phil passed peacefully in America with his family around him. A memorial gathering was held in Cranbury, New Jersey, last Saturday. Another will be held in Bonaire.

Phil's was born January 16, 1930, in Los Angeles, California. He studied Marketing and Biochemistry at the University of

Southern California and he used that experience to have a very successful career in innovation and advertising. Among other things, he worked on the Betadine surgical scrub formula, which he once drank to prove it wasn't poisonous like iodine. Some said he invented Preparation-H, which he denied. It was originally designed to be used as sun block, but the fish oil in it stunk. Somebody (Phil?) said, "stick it up your ass," and Preparation-H for hemorrhoids was born.

Phil's products earned lots of money. For him, the fun of making money is using it wisely and sharing it with others and Bonaire benefited. He supported Bonaire artists, charities and projects, a few of which included Jong Bonaire, the Maria Hoppner Home, the Amboina Dolphins football team, the Klein Bonaire Foundation, the Bonaire culinary team, youth sailing and the Bonaire Animal Shelter. He also funded a documentary on Captain Don Stewart to record the story of the start of the business that Bonaire's economy is founded upon. He worked to get lower fuel prices for the island. He frequented the International Bible Church when he was on-island which was about half the year.

We most remember Phil for his doggedness, original thinking and sense of humor. He was a practical joker and seemed to always have a trick up his sleeve. He played the nose kazoo and was a champion spoon-on-the-nose dangler. He accepted life on its own, firmly believing that the soul goes on. When confronted with a growing cancer that finally took him he said to his wife, Laraine, "We've all gotta go someday from something." □ *G.D.*



Sara Matera photo

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

► The restored **Mangazina di Rei**, Bonaire's "Storehouse of the King," is one of the wonders of the island. Its outdoor museum of historical houses, charcoal making pit, limestone furnace and aloe oven transport us to another time. The Mangazina itself has been restored and houses artifacts from another era. The work has been accomplished by Edith Strauss-Mercera, her husband Rob Strauss and devoted volunteers. Danilo Cristiaan is the now the manager and the work continues. To help defray costs, the Mangazina offers its site for parties and festivities. In order to make the operation more cost effective and to help with maintaining a botanical garden now under construction the board wants to install solar and wind power. This is such a worthy cause and so much of it has been accomplished more with volunteer labor than a lot of money. If you can help with a donation call Danilo at 795-3843. See their website at www.mangazinadirei.org. Or donate to their MCB account #104304-08.

► Our colleague, **Bôï Antoin**, Editor of the Papiamentu language newspaper, *extra*, was one of the 34,019 walkers in the *Nijmeegse Vierdaagse*,



the world-famous four-day walk through the Nijmegen area of Holland. We think it's his fifth walk. Congratulations!

► Last week we mentioned that Bonaire's **Rudy Ellis** would serve as a member of the Dutch Council of State. **We made a mistake.** The "Ellis" nominated was another man from St. Martin.

► Welcome to our latest advertiser, **Tropical Car Care**. Our auto editor (see Bonaire On Wheels on page 9) thinks they can do a top notch job to repair your car. See their ad on this page.

Antilles News

► According to Telecommunications Minister Maurice Adriaens, the **Antilles cellular phone providers have been offering poor service**. Based on several complaints he had received, he asked the Bureau Telecommunication & Post (BT&P) to conduct an investigation starting in Curaçao. Results showed that the service provided by both UTS and Digicel was far below standard in at least one area. "There are too many interrupted calls and the percentage of call completion is also too low," he said. There have been unresolved complaints of poor service from Digicel, especially in kunuku areas of Bonaire.

► **The Bureau of Telecommunication and Post (BTP) has finished the final draft of a new telecommunication law.** The Council of Ministers will debate this law in the coming weeks.

The old law was based on a regulated telecommunications market which was deregulated five years ago so a new one is needed. Telecommunications Minister Maurice Adriaens said, "One of the issues with which the new and more flexible law would deal with was the portability of phone numbers. This means that a client can maintain the same phone number even when switching provider."

Bonaire cell phone subscribers were thrown into chaos when Digicel/Telbo took over the 78x numbers from UTS last year and many had to change to preserve their phone numbers.

Another issue the new law will address is Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). "In the existing law, this technology is not mentioned because the technology did not exist when the law was drafted. It then might be possible for VOIP clients to make free emergency calls to phone numbers such as 911."

In addition, Adriaens said local companies too would be able to start offering VOIP accounts to their clients. Asked about the liberalization of the telecommunications market on the whole, he said the new law, as was the case with the old law, would leave some details to each island territory.

It is not clear whether Bonaire will fall under Dutch Telecom regulations or the new Antillean rules after the Antilles are dissolved in December 2008.

► **Timothy Dunn will succeed Robert Sorenson as the Consul General of the US for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.** The new Consul General arrived in Curaçao last Tuesday, the US Consulate announced on Thursday. Dunn is a professional diplomat and until recently was department head at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in the US and faculty advisor for the national military academy.

He holds a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center, a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, and has studied at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

Dunn will be accompanied by his wife Denise and two daughters, Monica and Cristina.

► **The Antillean National Lottery, now 55 years old, will be computerized.** The National Lottery has never defaulted in its payouts to winners, more than NAf 20 million per year. Each drawing offers 2,249 prizes from the 35,000 tickets available in Bonaire. Tickets are available in lottery shops and from street vendors.

► **The UN's weather agency said on Friday that a disruptive La Niña climate pattern was taking shape in the Pacific,** raising the prospect of an active Atlantic hurricane season and strong monsoons in Asia. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a statement that the development of La Niña in the second half of 2007 was now "more likely than not." The combination of tropical wind patterns over the Pacific Ocean and cooler-than-normal sea temperatures off the Pacific seaboard of Latin America generally has an impact

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DO YOU SUDOKU?

Sudoku means "the digits must remain single" in Japanese. To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. For a tutorial visit the web site www.Sudoku.shack.com. Answer on page 12.

Supplied by Molly Kearney (who has to solve all the puzzles first)

9	4				7	6		
		5			2	3		1
8				5	4	2		
6	7				8			9
1			3		5			4
2			7				8	6
		9	8	2				5
4		6	5			9		
		7	4				6	3

40 Years of Service



MCB photo

MCB Bonaire Managing Director Evert Piar receiving his pin from Nicole Henriquez, board member of the MCB Group.

The Bonaire Friendly Bank's top banker, Evert Piar celebrated his 40th anniversary working for Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) last week. Evert started his career with MCB as a teller in 1967 and, as he continued his education and experience, he moved into the administration of the bank. He was appointed Assistant Manager in 1975 and Director of MCB (Bonaire) in 1990.

His anniversary was celebrated throughout the entire day. A "wabi" (old time car) picked him up at his home in the morning. At work his colleagues greeted him with a real red carpet for a memorable welcome. The Bonaire, Rincon and MCB flags were raised as he and colleagues sang Bonaire's national anthem under the leadership of Lucy Diaz. All bank customers of the main branch received a piece of birthday cake and a sweet that day.

The party continued at the Divi Flamingo Resort in the evening with family, friends, colleagues and MCB management members from Curaçao including Managing Director Ron Gomes Casseres, Shaffie Wihby and Nicole Henriquez who presented Evert with a commemorative pin and the customary envelope. It was apparent from the comments of both his employees and bosses that Evert Piar is loved and appreciated.

The evening was filled with music by the Four Bees and steel pan music by Alfred Ronde. □ G.D.

Bonaire is Salt (Continued from page 3) the salt gathering in 1658 and vestiges of the centuries-long labor is apparent in the navigation obelisks (see story on page 4) and the slave huts.

According to the Works Manager the loading facility offers an important advantage. A small bulk freighter can be filled in about 12 hours and smaller ships and ships up to 50,000-tons can come dockside.

Customers are from the Dominican Republic and Trinidad—they use refined salt for water conditioning and chemicals. Different grades are available from the Works: super coarse, screen coarse, medium, crushed. Works operators can influence the growth of crystals to a certain extent. Bonaire salt isn't used for road-deicing much. There are about nine months between salt harvests—none during rainy season.

Because of the corrosive environment maintenance of the equipment is a big item, about 40% of the production cost

The Work's competition comes from producers in South America—Venezuela, Colombia, Chile - Mexico, Asia and Australia.

The salt is produced by evaporation of



When the water in the crystallizer turns pink it's ready to be harvested.

seawater. The water becomes more and more salty as it moves from the entrance through evaporator ponds and finally to the crystallizers where it becomes so saturated that crystals form. In some sections windmills are used for pumping.

There are underwater caverns and channels where the water levels are affected by tidal action called "Wowo di Laman," but they are not part of the crystallizer system.

There's lots of sea life in the ponds. In Pekelmeer the fish can move in and out. Pond #1 has lots of fish but no coral as the temperature rises too much during the day....In Pond #5 fish can move in and out to the sea during high tides. The colors of

► **Jurrie Mellema has retired as manager of the Bonaire Animal Shelter.** He wrote a new chapter of professionalism in the history of the facility that will have a lasting effect.

For the last seven and a half years Jurrie has headed the Shelter. He's done a magnificent job that has taken not only management competence but plenty of heart and sensitivity. During his tenure the Shelter reached a high level of service to the community. The grounds and the kennels were cleaned up and landscaped. The boarding kennels were improved to accept more dogs, so that more income could be realized to support the Shelter.

The Sterilization Program was expanded so that even adopted pets could have their sterilization included in the standard adoption fee, at no extra cost. And who can forget the two awesome Sterilization Weeks in October 2004 he organized when volunteer vets from the US, Canada and Holland came to Bonaire and did non-stop sterilization operations on 222 dogs.

The education program among the school children has been very popular and more and more school and other groups are coming to see and play with the resident cats and dogs. An SGB art teacher and her students painted a whimsical mural on the wall of the cat cage.

It's an emotionally tough job with life and death decisions to be made almost daily. After all, the Shelter can house just so many animals, and the criteria have been that an animal up for adoption must be healthy and social. But, as Jurrie says, "Every puppy or kitten, every cat or dog has the same chance, and that chance is not affected by the person who brings it in." Every year an average of 300 dogs and 100 cats are brought in by people or the dog catcher. But, and this is where the heart comes in again, there are some cats and dogs who are lifetime "residents" of the Shelter. They are not adoptable but they have such fine characters that they're allowed to stay on.

He's got some big shoes to fill. We wish him well and thank him for those years of devotion to the unwanted pets of Bonaire.

We congratulate Marlis Tiepel, a familiar face at the Shelter for the last year and a half, who has been named the new Shelter Manager. May you continue to grow the Shelter's reputation and importance to Bonaire. □G./L. D.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 6) "of planetary scale," WMO scientist Rupa Kumar Kolli said.

The Atlantic hurricane season is at its most active in August and September. Bonaire is out of the "hurricane belt" but is sometimes affected by storm surges and wind calms when the storms pass north of the island.

► At the Pan-American Games in Rio de Janeiro, **Antillean sprinter Churandy Martina (from Curaçao) won the gold in the 100-meter sprint earning him the title of the Fastest Man in the Games.** His time was 10.15

seconds. This was the second medal for the Antilles in the competition, when earlier the women's hockey team took a won bronze.

► On Wednesday, 18 July, **Montserrat island residents held a thanksgiving service on the 12th anniversary of the first eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano.** During the period, the volcano has had spells of eruption and repose. At least 19 persons have died while 60% of the island has been rendered unsafe, covered in volcanic material and mud flows. Love placid Bonaire. □G./L. D.

Parrot Watch

Gone are the Parrot Watch updates full of gloom and sadness. We shall have no more of that here in parrot paradise. Instead this week's instalment will be a more upbeat update and eventually we'll get to "The Amazing Adventures of Wee Ben."

The Lora team has taken to giving the Lora nests memorable names. The imaginative team members stretch themselves to come up with ever more elaborate names like the inconvenient "Far Far Away" and the technically challenging "Enigma."

"Bill" is so named as it can be found on a hill, and "Ben" is Ben because it is in a nearby Glen, which is Scottish for valley, although technically it's not really a glen but more of an undulating lowland. Not to matter, these details only stand in the way of less imaginative souls.

The nest known as Ben has only ever had one chick, who is best described as an ill tempered and poorly disciplined spoiled brat. This little darling has become known as "Wee Ben." Wee being Scottish for small. The alert reader will have noticed a Scottish pattern emerging. Whilst we have nothing against this, we are confused by its origin as the team member giving these names usually resides on the Welsh border of England, far from Scotland, and to our knowledge he has never been to Scotland and has certainly never eaten haggis.

Two members of the parrot team recently visited Wee Ben to check up on him. Most parrots are sexually monomorphic, that is you cannot tell males from females. Wee Ben is described here as a boy parrot only for convenience and there is an equal probability that he is in fact female. Little did the parrot team doing the visiting know that the nest inspection was to involve a few seconds of heart stopping terror. If you don't count daily abseils (rappels) down high cliffs, on poor anchor points in remote areas where there is every possibility that no one would find you for several hours should something go wrong, then you could say research into the development of Lora chicks rarely involves any great excitement. Consequently heart stopping terror which lasts for a duration of a few seconds cannot go unreported, and so on to ...

"The Amazing Adventures of Wee Ben"

It was another beautiful dawn in the undulating lowlands of the Washington Slaagbai National Park. Wee Ben awoke inside his dark, yet cosy nest and prepared for his daily routine. The preparations didn't take all that long as Wee Ben's daily routine largely involves sitting around waiting for food to be regurgitated into his mouth by his parents, digesting the food in order to grow and expelling the food. It's not



Some Bonaire Loras put their nest in the most inconvenient places and require a harrowing commute.

exactly a taxing schedule.

Wee Ben is now almost fully grown and ready to fledge. It's a difficult age for young Loras. Soon he will be forced to leave the security of his nest and join the wild birds flying over the hills of Washington Park. Unless of course he is poached and then he can expect to spend 30 years in a small cage comparatively absent of physical activity, mental stimulation or dietary interest.

Since waking to the songs of thrashers

and troupials he had waited for approximately half an hour before his ever-attentive parents arrived to feed him. Feeding visits are best described as

(Continued on page 9)

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 16th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brower, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

The Screaming Red Hot Ford Mustang V-8 Convertible



The only Ford Mustang V-8 Mach 1 big bore convertible on the island of Bonaire.

Some months ago someone towed a red-painted Ford Mustang to Hato and parked it on my neighbor's property. They knew I had something to do with cars and the target was to prepare the car and make it roadworthy again. So then the problems to be resolved started...

According to some stickers glued on the inside of the front windshield of the muscle car the vehicle had been imported from South Carolina, US. The Bonairean license plates were outdated, colored yellow, from 2004. So maybe the car had not been on the road for three years.

There were no official papers, there was no instruction manual, no workshop manual, no nothing, no information at all about the car. I didn't even know the name of the owner. The only thing I found out was that the car was equipped with a V-8 engine and an automatic gearbox. The car was covered with dust and a very thin layer of rust. It was fitted with a rather small but brand new battery. This was the first American made car I ever heard of that had the positive pole of the battery connected to ground. The interior light was glowing, but it turned out that the battery had been wrongly connected, so maybe some parts of the electrical system were destroyed.

I disconnected the battery, took it out of the car and charged it slowly. I hesitated for a very long time before re-installing the battery in the car, now connecting the negative pole to the body of the car: negative ground: no sparks, no short cuts, no problems. The lights were glowing, but how about all those other electrical things?

Then I shifted the car into "park" and I turned the ignition key. Lights in the dashboard started to glow. I turned the key a little further and the starter motor got its power from the battery. The crankshaft and all the pistons were moving. No further noises. No fuel? No ignition? No spark? Then I disassembled the air filter and poured in some super fuel. No nothing... A lot of carburetor cleaning spray. The engine remained dead. Then I decided to drain the gasoline tank and to dismantle the carburetor: rubberized fuel and a lot of dirt. I rebuilt the carburetor, poured in some fresh fuel. No result. What to do now? I checked the electrical system and after a lot of time I found the distributor. The contact points and the condenser were refreshed, the rotor and points were in good condition. I recharged the battery again and the next morning I poured in some carburetor cleaner and some fresh high octane fuel. The engine started hissing and finally came alive. The oil pressure was building up and the alternator was charging the battery. The car was not leaking and after some adjustment the engine revved up easily. The idling was okay too!

I topped up all the liquids and shifted the car into reverse. It worked! And in "drive" it worked. Then, carefully, I drove the car around the block for some time. Brakes, lights, wipers. The heart of the car was pumping and all the functions came back. Then I drove to an isolated strip of tarmac. The engine had reached the right temperature and I pushed the pedal to the metal. The fat rear wheels started spinning and small clouds of evaporated rubber showed up in both mirrors. Then I was pushed in the back of my seat and the big bore V-8 engine dragged the car forward. Whoooooaahhhh! This is fun. After days of work this was the result! And the power brakes were functioning too! I stopped the vehicle and the motor was idling. The lovely noise of a nervous V-8: "Gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh." Then I turned the car and revved it for another quarter of a mile. This was fun! Unfortunately, the car was not mine. Carefully I drove it home and parked it on my neighbor's property. One of Bonaire's muscle cars had come alive again. Look for a red painted Ford Mustang with a white soft top and enjoy the noise! □

Story & photos by J@n Brower

Parrot Watch-Wee Ben (Continued from page 8)
fleeting moments of frenzied activity. On this morning it was "Mrs Ben" who first hurled herself through the nest entrance. At the sight of a parent arriving Wee Ben launched into action, begging loudly and trying to grab his mother's beak. Nearly 12 hours had passed since the last feeding visit and he was hungry.

Their beaks engaged and his weary mother duly regurgitated the contents of her crop. Wee Ben's enthusiasm was so great and his head bobbing so vigorously that he soon caused their beaks to lose each other. Poor "Mrs Ben" realised immediately, but it was too late and she puked a beak full of food over the head of her dear offspring before managing to stop herself. This unfortunate situation did little to deter Wee Ben who swiftly returned to getting all he could from his mother. Once Mrs Ben was content that her duty had been fulfilled she made her exit despite her son's forceful demands for more food. It was now Mr Ben's turn to accommodate their offspring. He did this cordially and soon Wee Ben was satiated.

Mr and Mrs Ben then flew off into the hills that surround their nest to continue their foraging. Once again Wee Ben was alone, sitting, waiting, growing and crapping. It was his intent to do this all day long, just as he had done for the past seven weeks. It was an easy and stress free lifestyle.

But suddenly this peace was interrupted. A human hand plummeted into the nest. Wee Ben hurriedly shuffled to the back of his nest. The home that had afforded him such security was now a dead end where he could not escape the groping hand of a scientist. Fingers teased a grip on a leg and then his body was held. Wee Ben bit and nipped. He screamed an ear piercing scream but it was not enough to prevent him being plucked from his nest. Whilst this truthful account of chick extraction may seem rather gruesome, readers should note that the parrot team do everything possible to minimise the distress to the chicks we handle. And we put them back into their nests within minutes whereas poachers supplying the pet trade steal these babies from their families forever.

Wee Ben's eyes quickly adjusted to the bright lights and fascinating surroundings in which he found himself. The scientists moved him around, checking over his body, looking under his feathers for parasites and measuring this and that. He did what he could to bite them and to dig his nails into their

soft flesh but he was also distracted by this new world. Wee Ben could see cacti, trees and blue sky. His eyes simply couldn't take it all in. Was this the place his mother had whispered about when he was just a tiny pink bundle of joy?

The scientists kept muttering things to one another. They manipulated him and he could do nothing but submit. "Two hundred and ninety five grams, 128 millimetres, no quill sheaf on the tail. He's going to fledge any day now. Could you hold him for a second."

Wee Ben felt the grip of the hand loosen as the other human reached forward to take him. Following a rapid chain of thoughts he punctured the finger of the first with a toe nail and with all his might he bit the hand of the second. This was enough to create a fumble, the kind not normally experienced by such highly skilled and well trained scientists. Suddenly Wee Ben burst free. "My wings, my wings." He stretched his brand new muscles, their fibres twitching in a bid for freedom. His unused feathers discovered their purpose. His unaccustomed eyes frantically trying to navigate a path through the trees. The humans sprung into action. Their carefully taken notes being scattered in the panic, never mind the wind. Their precision instruments discarded as if worthless. Never mind the cactus now embedding in your calf. Worry not about the blood on your finger. Catch that Lora!

Wee Ben, with his heavy crop of food, was struggling to gain altitude. The chasing human was struggling with the loose boulders and low branches. 10 meters had passed and the human was gaining: each stride of his long legs worth two of Wee Ben's wing beats. Another five meters and Wee Ben was within kicking distance, but that was not going to help the current situation involving this precious and endangered species. The none-bloody hand swooped down but it failed to catch Wee Ben cleanly. He spun out of control, landing in a confused heap in the dirt. Before he knew what had happened his bid for freedom was over. "Did I just fly" his eyes asked the scientist in confusion but before anyone offered an answer Wee Ben was being returned to the peace and security of his nest. There would be no more excitement for him today. Gosh no, a few seconds are quite enough. □



Sam Williams

Snorkeler's Notebook:

One of the most unusual philosophy courses I took in college was on "aesthetics," the study of what constitutes beauty and art. A typical assignment in Professor Werner Kriegelstein's Aesthetics 101 class was to listen to the Beatles' White Album to analyze which songs were composed according to Hegel's dialectic of thesis-antithesis-synthesis in order to create "art." Very esoteric, I know, especially for a 19-year-old. If I were to teach such a class today, however, my assignment would focus on the underwater beauties of Bonaire to determine which visual artists designed which creature according to what aesthetic.



For the intellectually adventurous snorkeler (and diver), I invite you to take on this assignment in order to refine further your descriptions of what you consider "beautiful" on the reefs of Bonaire. Indulge me as I present a few examples of "which-artist-designed-which-creature" so you can get the hang of this new way of reveling in the artistry of the underwater world.

Let's begin with the **Queen Triggerfish** who I am sure many of you will agree is a stunning sight with all of her multi-colored lines and iridescent fins. Which artist could have conjured her up as one of the reef's "works of art?" A closer look at the pattern of her lines will immediately evoke **Picasso's** techniques for drawing lines in every direction to form a visually-pleasing design. And herein is one aesthetic: beauty should be visually pleasing. Of course, what is considered visually appealing is, as they say, in the "eye of the beholder." But to many who venture into the underwater world, the Queen Triggerfish is the epitome of visual pleasure because of the colorful composition of her lines.

Representing the Impressionist school of art (i.e. **Claude Monet, Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot**) are all kinds of **Parrotfish and Wrasses** whose pastel colors blend so effortlessly as if painted on a canvas. Another reason these fish are excellent examples of impressionism is that the goal of impressionist artists was to record visual reality, accurately and objectively, in terms of the transient effects of light and color. Anyone who has witnessed a Rainbow Parrotfish or Clown Wrasse illuminated by a beam of light will agree that light and color work together to make them one of the most breath-taking visual realities of the underwater world. This principle of fully capturing all dimensions of visual reality in order to capture beauty is one reason why we snorkelers and divers keep going back into the water, isn't it?

Abstract expressionism might be a bit more difficult to discern if you have **Jackson Pollock or Willem de Koon-**

Aesthetics on the reef



Queen Triggerfish by Picasso? Jonathan Dowell photo

ing in mind as your defining artist for this movement, but if you think about the abstract patterning on **the smooth Trunkfish or the Spotted Drum**, for example, you can become dizzy with the three-dimensional effect of their black and white spots and lines. This effect is especially evident when viewing the post-larval juvenile of the smooth trunkfish, which definitely fits the anti-figurative theme of abstract expressionists, with its yellow spots suspended in space almost as if it has no body. See how much fun this can be!

My final examples come from the surrealist movement, which was fueled by the nightmarish imagery and symbolism of the dream world. Artists like **Magritte, Dali, Kahlo, Varos, and Carrington** often invented animals that were bizarre combinations of different species in order to convey the range of feelings evoked by dreams. I can find this same aesthetic paradigm at work in the **Peacock Flounder, the Trumpetfish, the Scorpionfish, and the Coronetfish**, all of whom have ended up in my nightmares at one time or another. There is no doubt that each of these creatures appears a bit strange (even frightening) yet fascinates and intrigues us nevertheless as if they have a symbolic meaning that we are all trying to surmise. Perhaps this is why regular snorkeling intensifies our dreams.

Now that you have the basic idea of how to use aesthetics to enhance your snorkeling experience, please send me your examples of "which-artist-designed-which-creature" to pkayes@diversityworksinc.net. I promise there will be no grades! □ *Pauline Kayes*

Pauline Kayes is a college professor of English, Humanities and Women's Studies from Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. She is a part-time Bonaire resident.

Bonaire's Springtime

COVER STORY



It may be summertime in other parts of the world but thanks to our recent rains Bonaire is experiencing her own unique "Springtime." Accenting the dark greens of the cactus are budding trees and shrubs, sporting rusts, yellows and all the spectrums of greens in between – from a light lime to a grayish green. So many trees that you were sure were totally dead have come alive. The spiky Palu di Lele (Five Fingers or Goatthorn) bursts with tiny apple green leaves. And the venerable Divi Divis, also known as the Watapana, begin their leafing looking just like Japanese split leaf maples.

The rain jump-started the West Indian Cherry trees (Shimaruku) and the blossoms are covered with frantically pollinating bees. The Brazilwood on the eastern side of the island have taken the opportunity to leaf and blossom with their yellow flowers. There are so many more discoveries a this time of year. Now's the time to get out and enjoy Bonaire's natural beauty. And, like *The Bonaire Reporter*, it's still free! □ *L.D.*

Bubbles from the Biologist

Bioluminescence

Did You Know...

Some of the most beautiful marine creatures are microscopic? One of my favorite things to do is to snorkel at night and watch the millions of dinoflagellates bioluminesce. These unicellular organisms are so small that you can only see them under a good microscope – until they flash a brilliant blue-green. ‘Bioluminescence’ is a fancy word for the light produced by chemical reactions in an organism. Some organisms ingest or produce luciferin that reacts with oxygen and luciferase to produce ‘cold light.’ It’s believed that about 90% of marine organisms can bioluminesce! Some do it to scare off predators, while others do it to attract prey. Some use bioluminescence to communicate or to attract mates. Dinoflagellates are always in the water, but you can only see them at night when it’s really dark. And you must stir them up to get them to bioluminesce. I find a nice calm site away from streetlights and try to time it so that there is no moon out – a week to two weeks after the full moon. No underwater flashlights are necessary to see this brilliant display – just jump in with your mask and start waving your arms underwater. It’s like a swirling universe at your fingertips – like Tinkerbell’s wand but a thousand times more beautiful. □

Caren Eckrich, Photo by Zac Kohl

Caren Eckrich teaches Coral Reef Ecology and Scientific Diving to American University students at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire. She's also the Director of Sea & Discover, a marine education center offering interactive learning programs to kids and adults. You can reach her at 717-5322 □.



Dinoflagellates



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Property

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For Sale- Large one bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in a secluded all condo building away from the hotel traffic. Full kitchen and laundry, tons of storage space, large patio with walkout to marina dock. Private owner sale. www.luxurybonaire.com



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For Sale Professional moving/packing/wrapping materials, like bubble plastic and special cardboard and moving boxes. Good for about 12

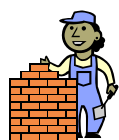
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DO YOU SUDOKU? SOLUTION BELOW

Puzzle on page 6

9	4	2	1	3	7	6	5	8
7	6	5	9	8	2	3	4	1
8	3	1	6	5	4	2	9	7
6	7	4	2	1	8	5	3	9
1	9	8	3	6	5	7	2	4
2	5	3	7	4	9	1	8	6
3	1	9	8	2	6	4	7	5
4	8	6	5	7	3	9	1	2
5	2	7	4	9	1	8	6	3

Pet of The Week



"Trudy"

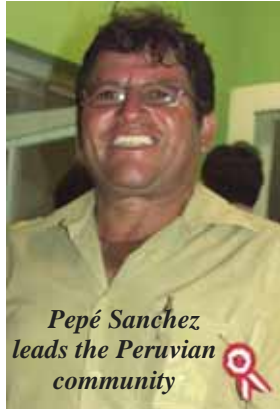
In the true spirit of "hanging out," "Trudy" shows just how relaxed a cat can be in the cat cage at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Trudy was found stranded at the top of a tree, hungry and thirsty. This cat has a lot of faith in human nature and it paid off when she was rescued and brought into the Shelter. With good accommodations, good food and friendly roommates Trudy has thrived. She's alert and a real beauty with her coal black fur, accentuated by a caramel colored fur necklace and line down her face – very unique. She has been examined by the vet, as are all the new animals brought into the Shelter, tested for feline leukemia, wormed, given her shots and sterilized and is ready to go. Trudy is about a year old now. You may meet her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm. Telephone 717-4989.

Thanks to her being featured in the last issue's "Pet of the Week," the darling little puppy, "Marie" has been adopted. Congratulations and our best to her and her new family.

Any and all unwanted cats and dogs are welcome at the Bonaire Animal Shelter – with no questions asked. Give them a chance at life by dropping them off at the Shelter. □ L.D.

Peruvians Celebrate

Bonaire's 300 or so Peruvian-born residents celebrated the anniversary of their country's 186th anniversary of independence last Sunday at the Nikiboko Sentro di Barrio,



Pepe Sanchez leads the Peruvian community

Among other activities many of Bonaire's Peruvians are involved in the building trades. The Peruvians have long had a sports association, Arriba Peru, but recently they formed a social organization as well. The new president of the Peru Association is Pepe Sanchez, one of the Directors of the Josan Construction Company.

Recently Ramonsito Booi, on behalf of the Bonaire Government, granted a 700 square meter plot of land near the Kralendijk Stadium for a Cultural Center for Bonaire's Hispanic residents. Building the center will be the focus of the Peru Association.

It's been reported that "300 more workers from Peru will arrive this year." They will be welcomed to help build the "New Bonaire." □G./L.D.



Bonaire Reporter Publisher (c.) with Nusta (l.) and Peruvian Inca-descended visitor and Peru poster celebrity, Ohaski (r.)



Peruvian musicians with their traditopnal instruments

Mountain Bike Race

A Great Success



Frank, Sam and Dirk Jan

The last weekend of July saw the 1st BWC Mountain Bike Race starting at the Subi Rincon antennas off the Kaminda Broertje Janga. Even though it was a rainy day, kids and adults proved their abilities, physical condition and commitment to the sport of mountain biking.

Race Results

In the 1 loop category, *Kids 12-13 years old (4.9 km)*, Siegal Francees from Aruba won the first place with a total time of 16:37:21. The second place was for **Alejandro de Lima** (20:21:49) from Bonaire who's becoming the champion of Bonaire in his category. The third place went to **Asdrubl Marciano** who is racing faster and faster every week.

In the 2 loop category, *Kids 14-16 years old (9.8 km)*, Gerald Martines

from Bonaire won the first place with a total time of 30:41:81. There were no other kids in this category.

Rayson Juliana (33:37:10) from Bonaire, took the win in the 2 loop category *Beginners MEN (9.8 km)* with **Roland Verbeek** who finished second with a total time of 34:34:64. Behind Roland, **Peter Werdath** finished 3rd with a total time of 36:03:92.

The *Master MEN race (19.6 km)* turned into a battle between Yorkshire rider **Sam Williams** and Bonaire's **Dirk Jan Methorst** who raced the challenging 4 loop (15.6 km) course. Sam Williams, from the UK, finished the first lap in only 11:32:71, the fastest lap of the race, and finished 1st with a total time of 49:58:68. Dirk Jan finished second in 51:43:51. Four minutes later, the best-dressed rider, **Frank Bohm**, from de Freewieler, rode confidently into the finish to claim the 3rd place in this grueling category.

The next race will be this **November** when more local riders and international riders are expected. More information about regular training sessions, mountain biking tours and upcoming events can be found on the Bonaire Wellness Center website www.BonaireWellness.com. □

Photos & story BWC press release



KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)
Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
8-06	4:48	0.9FT.	19:54	2.0FT.					59
8-07	5:46	0.8FT.	20:37	2.1FT.					56
8-08	6:29	0.7FT.	21:27	2.1FT.					59
8-09	7:17	0.7FT.	22:10	2.1FT.					66
8-10	8:00	0.7FT.	22:52	2.1FT.					75
8-11	8:35	0.8FT.	23:38	2.1FT.					82
8-12	0:15	2.0FT.	9:13	0.9FT.					88
8-13	0:57	1.8FT.	9:43	0.9FT.					89
8-14	1:35	1.7FT.	10:01	1.0FT.					88
8-15	2:13	1.5FT.	10:10	1.1FT.	16:46	1.3FT.	18:14	1.3FT.	84
8-16	2:54	1.4FT.	10:00	1.1FT.	17:10	1.4FT.	23:44	1.3FT.	77
8-17	2:35	1.2FT.	3:41	1.2FT.	8:53	1.2FT.	17:48	1.5FT.	68
8-18	3:58	1.1FT.	18:19	1.6FT.					59
8-19	4:27	1.0FT.	18:51	1.7FT.					50
8-20	4:56	0.9FT.	19:28	1.8FT.					41
8-21	5:34	0.9FT.	19:59	1.9FT.					34
8-22	6:04	0.8FT.	20:30	1.9FT.					32

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MOVIELAND

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Start Aug. 2 (Usually 9 pm)

White Noise: The Light (Nathan Fillion)

Start Aug. 9 (Usually 9 pm)

Live Free or Die Hard (Bruce Willis)

Call 717-2400 for details

Kaya Prinses Marie Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY

SUMMER SCHEDULE
OPEN—THURS THRU SUN

SATURDAY 4 PM
CHILDREN'S SPECIALS
To Be Announced

THIS WEEK

August 1-5—Pro Kids Windsurfing

Wednesday 1st

16:00 - 18:00 Registration at event site
18:00 - 18:30 Press Conference at event site
18:30 - 20:00 Opening Ceremony event site

Thursday 2nd

12:00 Lunch
13:00 Skipper's Meeting
14:00 Competition starts
17:00 Happy Hour

Friday 3rd

10:00 Skipper's Meeting
11:00 Competition continue
13:00 Lunch
17:00 Happy Hour
18:00 BBQ Beach Party

Saturday 4th

10:00 Skipper's Meeting
11:00 Competition continue
13:00 Lunch
16:00 DJ Contest
17:00 Happy Hours

Sunday 5th

09:00 Skipper's Meeting
10:00 Competition continue
13:00 lunch
14:00 Beach Culture, Dance Contest, Fashion Show, Rap, Brass Band
17:00 Awards Ceremony

Friday, August 3—FFB Football Tournament Final-Real Rincon vs Vespo, Rincon Stadium, 6 pm

Saturday, August 4 – Big Monthly Rincon Marshé - now a Bonairean tradition. Stands selling gifts, fruits and vegetables, candles, drinks, BBQ, local foods and sweets. Music, friendly people - 6 am to 2 pm. In the center of Rincon www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Saturday August 4 – Monthly Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. More info and reservations for a spot call 787-0466

Sunday, August 5—Taste of Bonaire—6-9 pm, Wilhelmina Park. See page 13 for details.

Sunday, August 12—Dart Tournament, City Café

Thursday, August 16 – Elvis' Retirement Party at Lee's Bar. See ad on page 4

COMING

September 6 - Bonaire Day

September 3 – Bonaire Fishing Tournament

October – Regatta, Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire

REGULAR EVENTS

Daily

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30
 - **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Mon. to Sat. 8 pm– 4 am; Sun. 7 pm– 3 am.
 - By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Steak Night On the Beach** (a la carte) - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm
- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon. **Extra big Marshé 1st Saturday of the month, 6 am-2 pm.**
- **All You Can Eat BBQ** at **Divi Flamingo** with live music, 6 to 9 pm, NAf26,50. Call for reservations 717-8285 ext. 444.
 - **Wine Tasting** at AWC's warehouse, **2nd Saturday of the month**, 7 to 9 pm, Kaya Industria #23, across from Warehouse Bonaire. Great wines. NAf20 per person for 6 to 8 wines.
 - **Flea Market every first Saturday of the month** from 3 to 7 pm, Parke Publico. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf5 per selling table. For more information and reservations for a spot, call 787-0466.

Sundays

- **Live music 6-9 pm while enjoying a great dinner** in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar, Divi Flamingo**. Open daily 5-10 pm

Mondays

- **Fish or Meat Dinner Special for only \$10**. **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6–9:30 pm
- **Reporter writer Albert Bianculli** presents his **Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm. Casablanca Argentinean Grill
- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers**, 5-7 **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**
- **Wine & Cheese** \$1 glass of wine, 5-7, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **Beach BBQ and music** at **The Windsurf Place at Sorobon**, 7—10 pm. Reserve ahead. Tel. 717-5091, 717-2288
- Live music by **Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 5-6:30.
- **Caribbean Night** A la Carte - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6—10 pm

Thursdays

- **Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7
- **"Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7
- **Buddy's Bingo Show** - **Buddy Dive Resort**, 8- 9:30 pm

Fridays

- **Mixed Level Yoga** 8:30am, **Buddy Dive** 786-6416
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7 - 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at

565-5225

- **Friday Weekly Market at Wilhelmina Park** with local art, music and food; summer fashions, jewelry, glasswork, Bonaire pictures, driftwood art, paintings and all kinds of Bonaire souvenirs, 9 am to 2 pm..
- **Live music by the "Flamingo Rockers"** **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**, 5-7 pm
 - **Swim lessons** for children by Enith Brighitha, a Dutch Olympian, at Sunrise Poolbar and Sportsclub, for children 0 – 18.
- **Manager's Bash**—free Flamingo Smash & snacks, **Divi Flamingo**, 5-7 pm
- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm) & All-u-can-eat BBQ, 7-10 pm, **Buddy Dive Resort**

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- "Discover Our Diversity" slide show-pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 7 pm, 717-5080

Tuesdays & Wednesdays—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at **Buddy Dive Resort** (717-3802) at 7m. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at the **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** (717-8817) at 7pm.

Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of their facility at **Bonaire Dive & Adventure**.

Tuesday -Caribbean Gas Training "Beyond Gravity – An Evening with DIR," 6 pm, **Bonaire Dive & Adventure** 786-5073

"Diving Facts And Fiction - An Evening with DIR" slide/video show by Caribbean Gas Training, 8 pm, **Bonaire Dive & Adventure**, 786-5073

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Kriyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9–12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Magasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday, Phone : 560-7267 or 717-3902.

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Cancer Survivor Support Group Majestic Journeys Bonaire N.V. Lourdes Shopping Center 2nd Level Kaya LD Gerharts # 10. Call 717-2482/566-6093.

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, Bridge Club: Wednesday 7.30 p.m. at Flamingo Airport (Technobar), airco, all levels, NAf2,50. Call **Joop 717-5903**, or be there in time (7.15 p.m.)

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thurs-

day of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - Now meeting at 'Pirate House', above Zeezicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-8434

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451; Valarie@telbonet.an

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics— Call Claire 717-8290

Volunteers to train children in sports. Contact Quick-Pro Track and Field - Rik 717-8051

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire. Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English on Sundays 10 am. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, Services in Papiamentu on Sundays at 8.30 am. Children's club Saturday 5 pm in Kralendijk.

Sunday School every Sunday at 4 pm in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, every Thursday at 8 pm. in Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7 pm in English. Tel. 717-8332

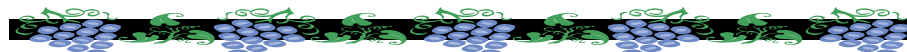
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30am. In Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304 . **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Send event info to:
The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:786-6518 or 786-6125

DINING GUIDE



See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Balashi Beach Bar Bar and Beach Service At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront	Open every day 8am - 8pm. Happy Hour, two for one, 6-7 pm.	Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 538	Moderate. Breakfast daily 6:30—10 am - . Lunch daily 11:30 Dinner on theme nights 6—10 pm	Buddy's Magnificent Theme Nights: Sat. - Steak Night A la Carte; Mon. - Fish or Meat Dinner Special (\$10,-); Wed. - Caribbean Night a la Carte; Fri. - Free Rum Punch Party (5:30- 6:30 pm) and All-u-can-eat BBQ for \$ 19.50 (7-10 pm)
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch Monday - Friday 11 am-3 pm Dinner Monday - Saturday, 6 to 10 pm	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Biggest BBQ Buffet on Bonaire every Saturday from 6-9pm. Only NAf 28 or \$15.75.
Casablanca Argentinean Restaurant One block south of the Post Office 717-4433	Moderate Lunch Tues-Sat—11:30-2:30 Dinner 7 nights— starting at 6 pm	Indulge your whim—beef seafood, chicken, vegetarian Mondays—All you can eat and special slide shows starting at 6 pm Great value anytime.
Hilltop Restaurant At the Caribbean Club Bonaire—on the scenic Rincon Road 717-7901	Moderate Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Bar-Restaurant poolside—in Bonaire's hill country Frequent Dinner Specials Happy hours 5 to 6 daily, to 7 on Tuesday BBQ night.
The Last Bite Bakery Kaya Grandi 70 717-3293	Low-Moderate Open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30am-5:30pm; Sat. 9am-2pm	NAf10 take out lunch Tuesday through Friday Main dish with 2 side dishes. Special on Tuesday and Thursday: Lasagna.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 780-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 780-1111
Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant At the lighthouse, Harbour Village Marina 717-7725	Moderate Lunch Tuesday-Friday Dinner Tuesday-Sunday	Authentic Argentinean Cuisine Owned and operated by the Pablo Palacios Family from Argentina The beef is here and more. Bonaire's original Argentine steakhouse,
The Bonaire Windsurfing Place At Sorobon Beach Get away from it all. 717-5091, 717-2288	Low-Moderate Open from 10am-6 pm daily,	A genuine sandy beach restaurant cooled by the trade winds Top quality food and friendly service. Reserve for the Wednesday Beach BBQ.

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

BANKS

Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents bikes, scooters and quads. Professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends Bonaire (Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine) -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their monthly cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Cafe and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

FURNITURE, ANTIQUES

The Plantation Has lots of classy furniture and antiques at very competitive prices. Stop in to see great teak furniture and Indonesian crafts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Incredible selection of pots.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts - all at low prices.

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rappelling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 785-6272 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services . **Full digital services.**

PHOTO SERVICES

Capture Photo at the Divi Flamingo. Photo classes, camera rental, digital processing, all state of the art!

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor." specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's most experienced real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer service, top notch properties and home owners insurance.

Re/Max Paradise Homes: Lots of Choices—International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community. List your house with them to sell fast.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration. Full service dive shop and photo shop too.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Under new management.

The Touch Skin & Body—Birkenstock shoes for men and women.

Valeries Airport Shops — Convenient shopping for unique items, magazines, gifts and more.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

SUPERMARKETS

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein

WINDSURFING

The Bonaire Windsurfing Place can fulfill all your windsurfing dreams and more. They offer expert instruction, superb equipment on a fine beach. Lunch and drinks too. BBQ and windsurf videos Wednesday nights.

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Shop at Kaya Industria 23, Monday-Saturday 9 am-12 noon.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Getting Ready for the Perseid Meteor Shower and Mars' Closest Approach



Have we got two goodies for you to get ready for: the **Perseid meteor shower** which occurs on the night of August 12th and morning of August 13th and the closest approach of the planet **Mars** during Christmas week.

Around 3 am Monday morning, August 13th, face northeast, and if you have clear and very dark skies and are far from bright lights, **you can expect to see a couple of dozen Perseid meteors per hour until dawn**. And I encourage you to make the effort this year because there will be no Moonlight whatsoever to wipe out the faintest of meteors because it will be time of the new **Moon**. And new Moon means no Moon. Now you have a better chance of seeing more meteors from around 3 am until dawn because then the night side of our **Earth** is facing more directly into the meteor stream called the Perseids. However, you'll probably see a few Perseids even before midnight Sunday night the 12th. So if you want to pull an all-nighter in the Sky Park go out about 11 pm Sunday night and hang out until dawn.

And while you're out there, if you look due east between 4 and 5 am you'll see not only the lovely star cluster, the **Seven Sisters**, but parked just to the right of it the 4th planet from the **Sun**, 4,000-mile-wide Mars. And I suggest starting your Mars watch either on the morning of your Perseid meteor watch or even now. Although, if you need a little help finding Mars, on Monday, August 6th, you can use an exquisite crescent Moon parked above it which will form a triangle with Mars and the Seven Sisters. Or you can go out Tuesday, August 7th and the Moon will be even closer to Mars and form yet a different triangle with Mars and the Seven Sisters. Now the reason I want you to start looking for Mars now is because it is racing closer and closer to our planet for a super close and very bright meeting during Christmas week of this year. In fact whereas Mars will be 120 million miles away on Monday and Tuesday August 6th and 7th, it will be 65 million miles closer on Christmas Eve, only 55 million miles away! And in fact will be an astonishing 7 times brighter than it is right now!

And in case you'd like a preview of winter's stars, well, all you have to do is look below Mars and the Seven Sisters between 4 and 5 am and you will see that winter's most famous constellation, **Orion the Hunter**, is rising just above the horizon. Three stars mark his belt, two bright stars mark his shoulders and two more bright stars mark his knees. So you can experience a little bit of Christmas in August, at least cosmic-wise, because every August before sunrise Orion starts to make his presence known over the eastern horizon. So start your Mars Christmas watch now and get ready for the Perseids on August 12th and 13th. □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the Month of August 2007

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest. You can beautify your surroundings by renovating or redecorating. Your mind will be wandering to exotic destinations. You can write beautiful love letters this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) It's time to let loose. This will be a good day for research and for sitting down with some good, informative reading material. Secret affairs can only lead to devastating circumstances. Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. Don't be afraid to make a move if you aren't happy with your emotional situation. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. You can enjoy your involvement in organizations that make charitable contributions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your high energy will help you through this rather hectic month. You will be able to close any deals successfully. It's time to make professional changes. Hobbies will be good for your emotional well being. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Changes in your home may be alarming at first. Opposition is present and you should be prepared to counteract it as best you can. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this month. Relatives will want to get together. You will gain new friends if you get involved in environmental issues. Travel will result in new romantic attractions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You won't get the reaction you want from your mate this month. Try to be understanding. Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. Get involved in the activities of children. They will teach you far more than you expect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You should put your efforts into creative projects. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Personal alterations will be in your best interest. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Don't let your lover put demands on you. Don't forget to read the fine print. You need activity. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to take others for granted. Tempers could get out of hand this month. You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money. You need to interact with others if you want to expand your knowledge. You will gain new friends if you get involved in environmental issues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are likely to reveal information unintentionally. Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch. You can make money if you put your mind to it. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

ART FOR FUN

Family Summer Time Project: Paper-Maché Napkin Rings

Now is a good time to do a project with the whole family. Paper maché napkin rings should brighten up your dining table. They are also fun to use for birthday parties or other events. Don't worry if you don't use linen napkins. We used brightly colored paper napkins and they make a big impression in the napkin rings.

You will need:

- Ruler, pencil, scissors or cutting blade
- Cardboard tube from paper towels
- Newspaper or magazines
- Wallpaper paste – known as *Bison Behang Plaksel*- mixed with water
- Gesso (base coat paint) or white paint
- Acrylic or water based craft paint
- Spray Varnish or water base varnish

Step 1 – **Measure and mark** the cardboard tube every 3cm or 1-1/2". Cut pieces



Kaile creates her rings

apart with scissors or cutting blade. Now you have about 7 to 8 rings.

Step 2 – **Cut paper strips** slightly larger than the width as your rings. (5cm/ 2")

It doesn't matter how long they are. You should cut enough strips to cover the ring at least 4 times. The more layers you add, the sturdier the rings will be.

Step 3 – **Mix** about 4 Tablespoons of the dry wallpaper paste with approximately 1



Napkins with rings

Picture Yourself With The Reporter British Columbia, Canada

Mike and Cheryl Limebeer from Cobble Hill, British Columbia, Canada, sent us this photo which should cool us down.

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN a Reporter night on the town.**



cup of water. Put this solution in a flat pan and drag your paper strips through the solution, completely soaking the paper.

Step 4 – **Wrap the rings** with the paper strips, overlapping the paper around the rings inside and out. Do one layer and move on to the next ring. This will give the paper a little time to dry. Add 3 - 5 more layers then let them dry overnight, or go to the beach and let them bask in the sun with you for a few hours. The rings don't need sunscreen.

Step 5 – **Paint the rings** with gesso or white paint. When this is dry, decorate with the colors of your choice. We used water base acrylic paints.

Step 6 – **Apply a water base varnish** or spray varnish to make them bright and shiny.

Now they are ready for the napkins to be added and the party to begin!

Happy Summer! ☐ Article & photos by JanArt,

This article is part of a series by Janice Huckaby of JanArt. Call 599 717-5246 or 791-5246 for information on art lessons or to view her artworks



On The Island Since... November 11, 2005

W. Gonsari

The first time I came for a week in 2003 to cook Iranian food for the owner of the *Angel* boat-restaurant, the same boat that's now parked on the boulevard. I didn't do so much cooking because I couldn't find any of the ingredients I needed; there was no saffron, and for the meat you had to go here, and for the green beans you had to go there. It was complicated and I was very surprised, but I was enjoying the island tremendously. I was living in the Netherlands and there you could get almost everything - except for happy people - they are hard to find in Holland.

I fell completely in love with Bonaire after that week - the peace and tranquility you could get here for free - and the charm - it was very special. But when the days passed by I found there was very little to do and so I left for Curaçao and that was something completely different. After 10 days I went back to Holland where I began to realize that Curaçao was very much like Holland: stress, traffic jams, and running back and forth. You start missing something when it's not there anymore and I missed Bonaire - it was so special. Also, I saw a lot of opportunities to lead a simple life here, without a great deal of money or means, because only then can you really enjoy life to the fullest.

So, I started making all the arrangements to come here before it was too late. I wanted to do it quickly because I thought once I got older I'd be afraid to make the move. So, 18 months later I arrived on Bonaire.

In Groningen, in the north of Holland where I lived, I had my own business, a bicycle shop. I had my diploma as a teacher and at my workshop I was also teaching bicycle techniques to trainees who would work four days a week at my shop and go to school one day a week. When my friends heard that I wanted to leave the country they couldn't believe it. They told me, 'You've got your own business and a good income - everything that's important.' It was a good life - according to Dutch norms and values, I'd done a great job.

I had been living in Holland for eight years. Before that I lived in other countries. I like to say that I am originally from the mountains behind Rincon. I came to live here with my Bonairean girlfriend in Nikiboko-South. The first month I had a complete different view about the way things are done here. I was comparing everything with The Netherlands and I thought that everything here would be like it is in Holland because it is the Dutch Antilles...

However, everything here goes the Antillean way and that works fine. You can accomplish everything your way in your own tempo and on the way nobody laughs at you because you are so slow and you have no obligation to accomplish something fast. Everyone is accepted here, regardless of the color of their skin or nationality - we won't talk about money... It's great, the way it functions!

Well, we arrived on Friday and because of all sorts of miscommunications, many things were not the way they were supposed to be. So, Saturday I called Holland and asked my friends, my son and my sister not to send my bicycle shop to Bonaire. It was a shock; all the preparations and appointments had been in vain. But I wouldn't be me if I'd give up!

Then I found something I'd never believed in before and that was God - the Almighty. Before I came here I was baptized as a Catholic, but here I was baptized Evangelic in the sea of Bonaire and it gave me great strength and trust in other people. It was the greatest thing I've ever

"Life is a river. We don't know where the source is or where the sea is, but there's a lot to see while we're going with the flow."

found, something I could have never imagined.

I say the island has magic, it's special - I've heard other people speaking about the good spirit of Bonaire and the strong energy it has and once I'd experienced it myself I was completely convinced, but that was then... because in the 18 months I've been here many things have changed. It seems like we're speeding up, we're driving faster and maybe we'll get bigger roads, more beautiful, where we can drive even faster... of course we have to fasten our seatbelts then and watch the traffic signs constantly in order not to lose our way. It would be so sad if we would lose our way on this little island. It looks like we're going down the same road everybody in this world is going. But we're an island and that means we're surrounded by water everywhere, wherever you have to go so fast - there's always the sea - you can't go any further. The faster you go, the less you enjoy the charm of the island and everything it has to offer. I



think the slower you live the more you enjoy it.

The good things I've experienced in the time I've been here are the slow-motion bureaucracy, my beautiful empty mailbox - never stuffed with flyers, advertisements and other useless paperwork - and the people. In all the eight years I was in Holland I never met so many good people as I've met here - Arthur Sealy, Daniel, Mario - the hairdresser - and his family, Jorge, Dufi Martijn, Charlie, the Keller family, Susie and Arnold and Nelly...

W. is one of a kind, an original mind; eccentric, philosophic, great sense of humor and lovely to talk to. He's an unusual person who lights up your life the moment you meet him - he's good - a real good man.

"Only when I left the mountains behind Rincon did I begin to understand what culture really stands for. Before, I'd been reading about it in many different books and theoretically I could understand what they meant, but in reality it is far from simple. The most important help is time and openness towards others. I've worked at Kristu Bon Wardador elementary school in the after school program where I taught handicrafts to the children, then I found out - sort of - how the Bonairean culture works for the Bonaireans. In fact, I didn't get much wiser; I need more time, that's for sure. To understand a culture you need at least five to 10 years and you have to be fluent in the language. My biggest handicap is that I speak Dutch. If it wasn't for that I would have learned Papiamentu by now I guess, because it would have been a must. And even to speak a language doesn't mean that you master it, because what about playing upon the words, the sense of humor that's hidden between the lines, the right way to pronounce a word. All that takes long - believe me. I'm talking from experience. I

had to learn Dutch. Maybe after December 15th 2008, I'll be fluent in Papiamentu. I don't think it's a difficult language, but I don't dare to let the words come out of my mouth... yet!

Another beautiful thing about Bonaire is its 50 nationalities, plus one - that's me - 51 nationalities on such a small island! I think I've figured out the secret to why we get along so beautifully without any problems or quarrels: one nationality lives in Sabadeco, the other one in Santa Barbara, another one in Belnem, another group lives in Antriol, some live in Rincon, other people live in Nikiboko, one in Tera Kora and one in North di Salina and then you have the people in Playa. So 51 nationalities live happily on one small island. I think the people on the mainland could learn a lot from us - or did they teach us how to do it?

Life is a river. We don't know where the source is or where the sea is, but there's a lot to see while we're going with the flow. When it runs through cold areas you start to freeze and in the warmer parts you become damp and in spring the fishes lay their eggs and multiply and you go on happily all together - that's real life. Life is beautiful. The future is tomorrow - the sun will rise at five and we will have light, and at 11 it will start to heat up a bit. Between 12 and 2 we'll be in the airco to take a little rest and by 2:30 we'll have a couple of Polars, some cigarettes and a 'tiki' food. By 7 I think it will get a bit cooler and from 8 o'clock I will seriously start making plans for the future and believe me... I have plenty of plans..." □

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

