

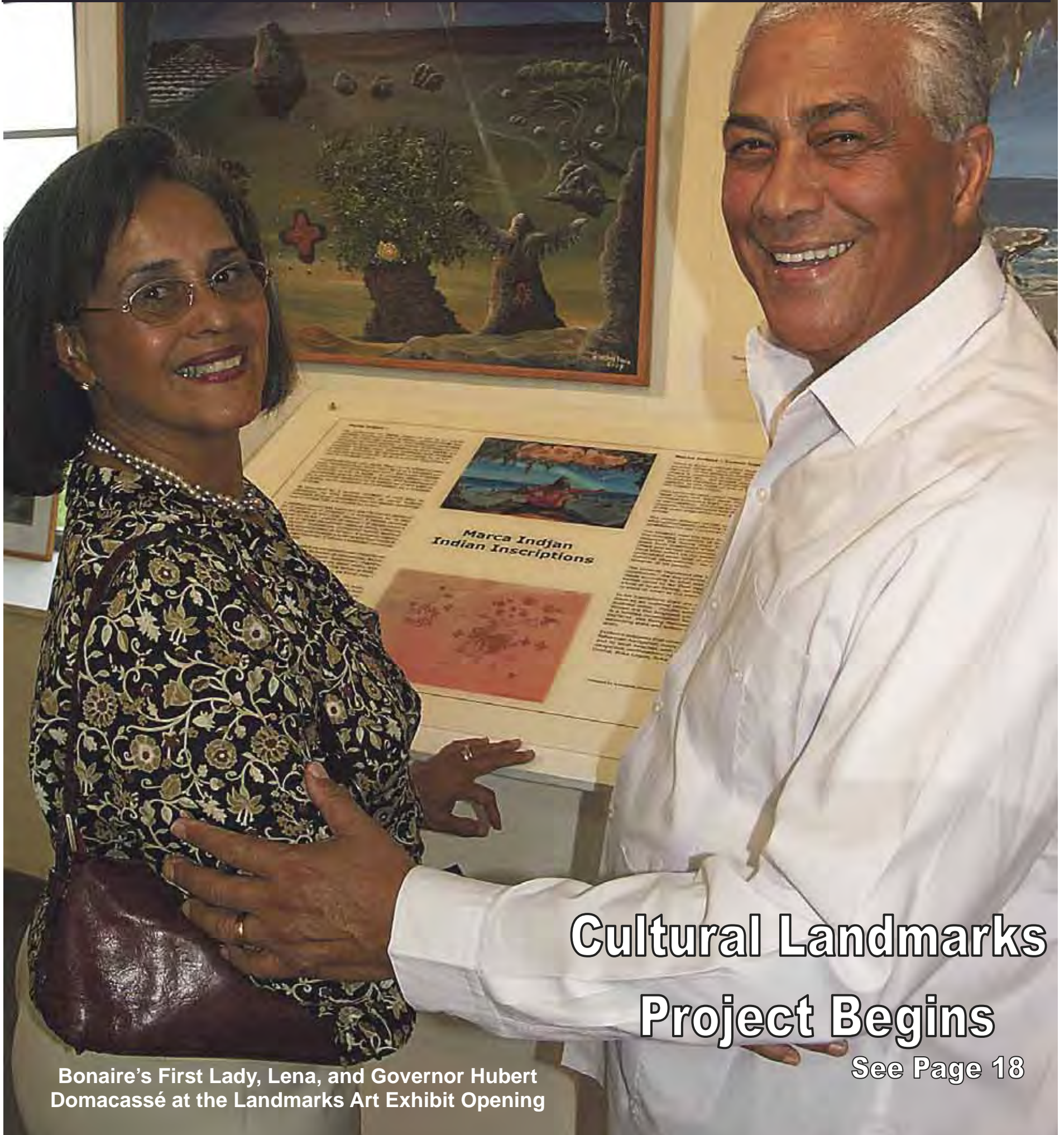
**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Dec. 7-21, 2007; Volume 14, Issue 37

The REPORTER

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Since 1994



Cultural Landmarks Project Begins

See Page 18

Bonaire's First Lady, Lena, and Governor Hubert Domacassé at the Landmarks Art Exhibit Opening

**Electricity From
Nature**

Page 3

**Bad
Developments**

Page 7

**FKPD Dream
Comes True**

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**Tene Boneiru
Plat**

Page 19

Bonaire's 2008 budget is projected to have a deficit of Naf 25 million. However, "the government will start taking measures to arrive at a balanced budget in 2011," declared Finance Commissioner Burney el Hage. Compared to this year's budget, the deficit was cut in half. This was possible because some major 2008 projects are being financed by Dutch funds, like the Social Economic Initiative (SEI), Usona, and the European Union. Next year must create more revenue, and fewer expenses are forecast. To do that, the Bonairean government will employ fewer consultants and collect taxes more aggressively. Ground rent will also go up. The fees for the services that the government renders to the private sector, different taxes and assessments must also increase. "This is the first budget that is considered to conform with agreements with the Netherlands via the College of financial supervision (as part of the process leading up to integration with Holland)," added El Hage.

► **Central Bank President Emsley Tromp told members of the Antillean Parliament last Wednesday that the economy of the Netherlands Antilles will continue to grow, while the unemployment figures will decline.** He reported that the total debt of the Netherlands Antilles had kept growing and had reached Naf 5.3 billion at the end of July, representing 84% of the Gross Domestic Product. The growth projected for the Antilles in 2008 has been calculated at 2.6%. Tourism will remain the most important generator of foreign exchange for the Antilles, representing 33% of the economy.

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) cancelled all flights with its Fokker 100 jets last week** for obligatory maintenance to the engines on both planes. In addition one of its three ATR 42s was in Texas also for maintenance. DAE adjusted its schedule using its two remaining ATR 42 prop-jets with three flights per day to Bonaire and three to Aruba. DAE

maintained one flight to Caracas and one to Valencia. Flights should be back to normal before the holidays.

► **The Dutch Airline Newsletter, Luchtvaart News, reported that Delta Air Lines plans to schedule a second weekly direct flight, Atlanta-Bonaire.** Non-stop Delta flights are to begin on February 9, 2008, every Saturday; the new flight on Wednesday. The plane leaves Atlanta at 10 am and returns from Bonaire at 4 pm.

► **For three minutes St. Maarten shook from a 7.4 magnitude earthquake last Thursday.** It was one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the region. No tsunami followed as the earthquake occurred deep under the ocean 14 miles north-northwest of Le Morne-Rouge, Martinique, at a depth of 88.9 miles. On Martinique the earthquake lasted about 10 minutes. In Nearby Guadeloupe at least one death from falling masonry was reported.

► **Bonaire's wire-line phone company, Telbo, is now offering TV over its new fiber optic network** in selected areas of Bonaire. Telbo's new television package, MiTV, has programming similar to TDS, the wireless "cable" system, but has more Dutch channels. For extra fees, six add on packages are available.

► **A huge crowd welcomed St. Nicolas last Saturday,** when he arrived on the waterfront. see the story on page 11. The Fasiz Foundation (*Fundashon Ata Sanikolas i Zwartepiet*) organized the St. Nicolas party, while SEBIKI assisted with festivities in Wilhelmina Park.

► **The winners of the first three groups that participated in the Tourism Awareness Program were announced** at Kas di Arte on November 23. The third prize, a voucher from MCB, went to Rignald Marchena. The shared second and first prize, two Naf 75 vouchers from Benetton, went to Ana Francisca and Lloyd Obispo.

Harry Landwier won an i-Pod shuffle from MCB for a poem on Bonaire. Farid Ayubi and Harry Landwier won the grand prizes, trips to Aruba, for their essays about what they think is unique in Bonaire. Two winners from the SGB and Jong Bonaire groups also won an i-Pod. For reaction to the TAP awards see the commentary on page 6.

► **The Natalee Holloway disappearance in Aruba case is back in the news.** Last week the three young men previously detained as suspects — Dutch student Joran van der Sloot and two Surinamese brothers, Satish and Deepak Kalpoe — were arrested, this time on suspicion of involvement in voluntary manslaughter and causing serious bodily harm that resulted in the death of Holloway. After their being in jail briefly, a judge released the Kalpoe brothers for lack of evidence. Van der Sloot remained in custody. Holloway was last seen leaving Carlos n' Charlie's nightclub with the three men on May 30, 2005, about 1:30 am, just hours before she was scheduled to board a plane home with high school classmates celebrating their graduation on Aruba. She was 18 at the time. Hundreds of volunteers, Aruban soldiers, police and FBI agents spread out across the island looking for her.

Van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers were previously detained on suspicion of taking part in her death, but they denied involvement, and after being jailed for months they were released by a judge for lack of evidence. Van der Sloot, 20, was re-arrested in the Netherlands last week, where he was attending university.

Aruban authorities have been criticized for their handling of the case. At least 10 men have been arrested and identified as suspects

either in Holloway's disappearance or in an alleged cover-up. All were questioned and released.

Aruba's criminal justice system is based on Dutch law and is a descendant of the Napoleonic code. In Aruba, authorities' reasonable suspicion that someone knows about or is involved in a crime is enough to make an arrest, while magistrates investigate and judges determine a suspect's guilt or innocence. There are no jury trials.

► **The Central Bank in Venezuela announced that effective January 1, 2008, a new currency will be introduced: the "Strong Bolivar."** This new currency is equal to the old one but it has three zeroes fewer, which means that 1,000 Bolivars will equal 1 Strong Bolivar. The two currencies will be in circulation for a short period of time.

► **On Thursday morning 36 members of the Venezuelan military led by a general invaded Guyana's land and airspace,** blew up two Guyanese mining dredges in the Cuyuni River and made over flights in two helicopters. The Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a protest about the incursions and summoned the Venezuelan ambassador to a meeting at which the Government of Guyana's grave concerns were communicated.

► **Venezuelans voted in a tightly contested referendum** on Sunday on whether to allow left-wing President Hugo Chavez to stay in power for as long as he keeps winning elections or hand him his first defeat at the polls. **The anti-American leader, who has easily won one election after another, lost by a narrow margin of 51% vs. 49%.** Chavez accepted the defeat. He had previously said a vote against him was a vote for George Bush and the USA.

► **The Bonaire Hygiene Service has started spraying Bonaire neighborhoods to combat the mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) that** (Continued on page 4)

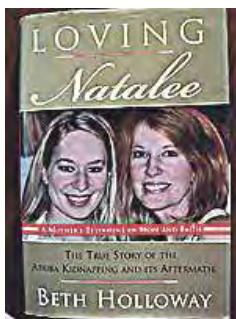


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Bonaire Gets Electricity From Nature

Bonaire, "Land of Sunshine and Soft Winds" according to its national anthem, will use them to supply its energy needs for the 21st century said Richard Hart, Director of Bonaire Holding Maatschappij which manages the island's electric company, WEB.

The first step for this was taken with the dedication of the first of 13 wind turbines. The turbine at Sorobon, operating as a training vehicle as well as supplying power to the island for the past five months, is operating above expectations and replaces a smaller unit installed over a decade ago that never worked. The remaining 12 turbines will be placed near Bonaire's northeast coast at Morotin in a "windmill park." Construction is expected to begin within a month.

The turbines are just one link in the chain that will give Bonaire energy independence. The others are a new biodiesel power plant and grid connected home power systems. The new 13 MW (million watt) plant will be built adjacent to the BOPEC oil transshipment facility on the northwest coast. The existing Hato WEB plant will discontinue electricity production and shift solely to converting sea water to fresh water. Grid connection, the newest addition to the plan, according to Director Hart, will allow homeowners who have solar electric or wind turbines powering



BHM Director Richard Hart

their homes to sell their excess power to WEB, a practice becoming common in America and Europe.

The entire project is scheduled to be complete in two years, coming on line in the third quarter of 2009. Projections show that the cost of electricity to Bonairean customers should drop by 20%.

Initially to be powered by petroleum, the engines of the power generators will switch to biodiesel produced on Bonaire from algae grown in an area near the Cargill Salt Works. Cargill, currently not part of the new energy partnership, is working on a process to use pond-grown algae as the biomass for deriving biodiesel much as corn or sugarcane is used.

The investment to do all this is more than \$130 million to be provided by private investors in return for the 15-year power purchase



The power panel of the Sorobon wind turbine shows it's producing 297 kW of electricity (enough for about 100 homes) in 20 knot winds. The Morotin turbines are three times more powerful. It has run more than 4000 hours with better than 90% availability.

agreement which was signed last week. The umbrella company, Ecopower Bonaire, is a consortium of the Dutch energy developer Econcern; the German wind-turbine manufacturer, Enercon; and the German power plant designer, MAN. In order to expand and enhance the electricity grid, WEB itself will invest Naf42 million, Naf 32 million going into the electricity supply system and an additional Naf 10 million for water production improvements.

According to Gilbert Gouverneur of Econcern, the island

gets something unique with this project: "In many places in the world, Econcern is involved in various projects to offer alternative energy. The project in Bonaire is the most prominent. If we manage to run our diesel engines on man-made fuels produced from algae-Cargill is working on this- Bonaire will then be the first in the world to have 100% renewable electricity generation, which means without fossil fuels, but with a constantly renewable source." □

G.D.



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from pg. 2) passes the dengue virus. The Commissioner of Public Health emphasizes that it is a temporary solution and that everybody should make sure not to create breeding places around the house. Make sure that there is no standing water. Close off rain water tanks, cover water barrels, refill animals' water daily, remove the saucers from under planters and flower boxes or turn them upside down, etc. Do not have anything that collects water around the house. The dengue mosquito lays her eggs in clear water, so avoid this.

► The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) in the United Kingdom lodged a protest with the Antillean Government against Curaçao Sea Aquarium's purchase of six dolphins from Cuban interests. They asked the government to comply with UNEP's Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol that prohibits the catching of dolphins as well as keeping them in captivity. One of the six wild-caught dolphins that Curaçao Sea Aquarium imported in secrecy died last Saturday, according to its owner, from a chronic disease. "The other dolphins are healthy and are being closely watched," he added. The dolphin died exactly two weeks after he was imported from Cuba with five others. Several Sea Aquarium employees were against bringing in wild dolphins for the Sea Aquarium's training and breeding program. Wild-caught



► On Friday Night at the Divi Flamingo resort the students who took part in a work-study experience in Italy shared what they learned by making pasta dishes for their fellow students! Teachers as well as students enjoyed the complimentary fresh pasta dishes made by Channathon Jansen and Poppie Saragoza. Now everyone can share the experience. Divi Flamingo offers a special Pasta Night every Friday for \$10, All You Can Eat prepared and served by SGB Students. Try it.

dolphins are much less expensive than captive born. It's reminiscent of African slave trade times when it was common for a percentage of the "human cargo" to die, considered "just a cost of doing business."

► 24 million euros (NAf 60 million) were set aside in the 10th European Development Fund for the Netherlands Antilles as one of its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). Instead of the usual project aid, the Antilles can probably receive this money as budget aid.

► Due to poor ticket sales, the fund raising dinner for the children's play ground and park had

to be cancelled. However, if you wish to make a donation for this much needed facility and cause, you can still do so to We Dare To Care Foundation - Parke Publiko Bonaeriano Account #110 966 09 with MCB Bank Bonaire.

► Buddy Dive Resort has been recognized as one of the top 10 Dive Resorts in the world by the online *Hotel & Resort Insider*. Buddy Dive Resort is the only Caribbean resort receiving this honor. "We are thrilled to be chosen as one of the best dive resorts. We always strive to improve the resort in a way that will give divers the best service and it is wonderful to be recognized for that," say



► Tene Boneiru Limpi (Keep Bonaire Clean) Foundation and SELIBON organized a big clean-up action on the entire island last Saturday, December 1. Groups and individuals took part, in all 223 people collected more than 400 sacks of trash in SELIBON's cleanup drive. Governor Herbert Domacassé, the head of SELIBON NV, Deputy Anthony Nicolaas and Economics Deputy Burney El Hage participated as well. SELIBON thanks the Tene Boneiru Limpi Foundation, and especially the principal sponsors Dehema, Telbo, MCB (Bonaire), Omni Electronics and UTS.

General Managers Michelle van der Valk and Paul Coolen.

► Capture Photo announced the opening of a second photo facility at Captain Don's Habitat. Jack Chalk, General Manager at Habitat has long wanted to reopen a photo shop at Captain Don's and with Dan Blodget and Kathy Lapsys of Capture Photo has succeeded in that plan. Capture at Habitat features Sea and Sea Cameras and accessories plus an amusing collection of Pirate gear and flags for the home and garden.

Paul, our gregarious Aussie Photo Pro is excited to teach you the finer techniques of underwater photography, rent you a DX-1G 10.1 megapixel Sea & Sea camera or similar camera and video your antics under the sea. Come on over to Habitat and check it out. New phone number is 717-6951.

► The Bona Bista Island Estate, a planned 225-lot development about a kilometer north of Antriol on the road to Rincon, which was inactive for almost a

(Continued on page 12)

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What's Coming Our Way?

The first of a series covering new construction projects on Bonaire by Bonaire resident Marcel Leurs who is a developer himself (Brisas Lodge)

Wow, there is a lot of construction going on in Bonaire these days!

Just try driving over the island for 10 minutes without seeing someone carrying bricks, making cement or painting walls. You will probably not make it, not even on a Sunday.

We want to know what is coming our way on the island, so in upcoming issues of *The Bonaire Reporter* we'll travel and find out.

This very first time exploring "what's coming our way," we visit the construction site of what will be **Elegancia del Caribe**. It is located on Kaya Playa Lechi, south of the large white (and still fairly new) building called Bonaire Seaside Apartments. This is one of the areas on Bonaire where the surroundings have changed considerably over the last few years.

This is the story behind the development...

The land where construction is now underway was formerly seven smaller pieces of 'owned land.' A Dutchman who sailed the Caribbean on a regular basis and always visited Bonaire on his trips bought the entire property piece by piece over a period of over 10 years.

Some days he would walk into a realty office, saying he was considering selling the property, but he was never very consistent in setting the price he wanted. Obviously, he was not in any hurry.

Then, around July 2006, things changed when the Dutchman accepted the offer of an investor who was convinced that this location had great value. The deal was made, and plans were made right away what to do there. We see the result appearing as we write.

However, building could not start right away. A very large part of the land consisted of loose coral (this is where the name Kralendijk ~literally: 'beads dike' ~ derives from). Try to build something on top of that; it won't work and your construction will definitely crumble.

The property was excavated until just above sea level, filled up with a special mix of diabase and broken rock, and compacted

many, many times. Lots of measuring and checking by engineers was involved.

Knowing that the actual construction is already progressing today and the terrain was acquired by July 2006, one must conclude that things can go really fast on Bonaire.

The complex will consist of two buildings with 12 apartments each. Both are identical and will be four stories high, about the same height as the yellow-colored Playa Lechi Residence down the street, so anyone supporting the idea of *Tene Boneiru Plat* ('Keep Bonaire Flat') will probably not be all too enthusiastic with this development. Both buildings will most probably be painted in a peach color; sounds pretty tropical. The roofs and round shapes here and there soften the design of the structures. We are told that compared to other developments that are around, *Elegancia de Caribe* is special for its true seaside location. No way we can deny that.

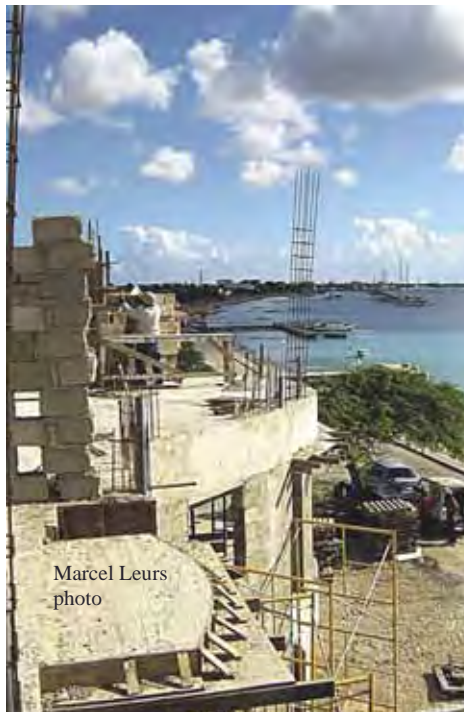
Sunbelt Realty started the sale of the condos last spring and they sold the last unit available a few months later, in October. Buyers were mainly from the US and Holland, but you may also meet the Canadian, English or Venezuelan owner here in the future. For almost all buyers, this will be a second home, and 10 of them actually already owned some real estate on the island when they bought this place. Currently one apartment is available for sale at \$445,000

Although there may be exceptions, it looks like most of the condos will not be rented out to tourists; owners will probably be there themselves a substantial part of the year.

The first building is planned to be finished May 2009 and the second two months after. Construction seems to be on schedule, as far as we can determine. (See photo above at right)

We'll keep our eyes open on the progress when walking, swimming, diving or driving by in the upcoming months at this location. Some more enthusiastic than others, possibly...

Next issue we'll go somewhere else finding out "what's coming our way" on Bonaire. □
Story & photos by Marcel Leurs



Marcel Leurs photo



Photos ©Sunbelt Realty



Looking landward before construction

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- Topics: 1. Danger Signs
2. TAP Exhibition
3. Free Ride To Ships

Letters to the Editor

DANGER SIGNS

Dear Editor:
... attended an event last night put on by the Tourism Awareness Program and TCB (you can see the ad for it on the bottom of the last page of the last Reporter). I felt it gave tremendous insight into some of the misinformation I think is being espoused by these programs and I want to take a minute to share what I saw.

The evening was meant to display the artwork, poetry and shadow boxes that have been made by TAP participants to represent what they have learned in the program. Some "students" of the program were asked how they see tourism on Bonaire in 20 years and prizes were awarded for the best poem, shadow box, etc. The winners...The winning shadow box depicted high rise buildings made of match sticks and match boxes. Many of the coastal match box high rises were labeled as "Casino." A match stick bridge connected Klein Bonaire to Bonaire to make access to the zoo (on Klein) possible. While this was the winning shadow box, the theme was exactly the same in every other person's depiction. High rise buildings all around the coast, a bridge to Klein Bonaire which allows access to either a zoo or

seaquarium, roads on Klein, and one went so far as to put a McDonalds in Slagbaai.

The winning poem about Bonaire in 20 years ends with "...in 20 years Bonaire will no longer be just a 'Diver's Paradise,' but somewhere everyone can enjoy." - as if the dive industry is somehow holding back Bonaire!

Is it strange that each student would have the exact same idea for the future of Bonaire and all include massive development including the development of Klein upon completion of the program?

The goal for 2008 is for TAP to train 1,000 people. This is a well financed operation with a captive audience (their jobs depend on their attendance). The message is actually "Smile! Boneiru ta Dushi but could be much better."

Unhappy With Awareness

TOURIST AWARENESS PROGRAM

Dear Editor:

On Friday the 23rd of November, the Tourist Awareness Program (TAP) conducted an exhibition at Kas di Arte. The aim of this show was to create a broader awareness of tourism among the Bonaire community. Works of art, poems and posters were exhibited to show

the uniqueness of Bonaire.

In my opinion, most people of Bonaire already know what is unique, important or essential for our island. If we want to keep attracting tourists with our (underwater) nature, tranquility, climate, and our culture, we need to be able to think ahead. What is the course that we want Bonaire to follow? Do we want to attract as many tourists as possible, building huge hotels, while destroying the environment? Or do we want to investigate the possibilities for changing our attitude towards the environment, to be able to continue to attract tourists, claiming that Bonaire's nature is one of the most beautiful in the world?

Let us take a look at nature economics. For example: the market value of an average-sized shark is currently about \$10. In the Bahamas this recurring value is estimated to be approximately \$15,000 per shark annually! (Source: www.sharkinfo.ch). Meaning: you can make money for a short period of time by catching the sharks (or harvesting wildlife in general), but in a few years you are left with nothing. However, if



TAP's icon, Mama Smile, at the exhibition

you preserve nature, you will have more money for years to come.

Right now several people and organizations are working hard on the conservation of nature on Bonaire. Still, in (almost) all situations where there is a lot of quick money to be made, nature takes a beating. Mass tourism comes at a very high price. And it would be nice if it were the tourists paying for it and not the environment.

We, living on Bonaire, are very aware of tourists. From what I have seen at the exhibition I can conclude that we would like to show off our island as a place of nature, tranquility and filled with very special people. And Mama Smile as our spokesperson is doing a very good job at that. If that is the goal of TAP, then they have succeeded. Now it should be the goal of Bonaire to make sure that we can back up that image in the long run as well.

Mary Ann Koops

FREE RIDE FOR CRUISE SHIPS

Dear Editor:

After four years of promises, cruise ships passengers still pay absolutely nothing when using the Bonaire National Marine Park. They pay no departure tax nor any other fee per passenger, unlike the overnight guests who must pay room tax at \$5.50 per person per night and departure tax of \$32. The only exception are divers who must pay either a \$10 day pass or \$25.

Four years ago it was decided that there would be a major increase in Park fees and cruise ship passengers would also pay \$10 per person. The cruise ship part was delayed one year and then another and then another with the final decision being that passengers would pay a \$.50 (50 cents) head tax starting this year. Even that apparently has been dropped under tremendous pressure by the cruise ships.

Why the Bonaire government is giving these people basically all this for free is not understood. Many islands in the Caribbean are now realizing how much damage cruise ships do and how much they cost to have. These islands have woken up and are starting to charge a head tax and not just 50 cents. Many have a \$5 charge and some even higher. Look around and learn instead of sticking one's head in the sand.

Concerned Islanders



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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. **Solution on page 11.**

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

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

Guest Editorial

The opinions in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of this newspaper.

POOR PROSPECTS FOR NEW BIG HOTELS

It was a surprise for me to read that Aruban investors have announced plans to build a Hilton Hotel on Bonaire, north of the airport. According to newspaper reports, The Hilton Bonaire Resort and Spa will be built on a "system of canals which offer a peaceful and romantic environment, creating a perfect setting for the property."

I admire the persuasion skill of the developer, Azul Management Bonaire, to interest Hilton in this resort because its **planned location is absolutely below the standard you would expect for a Hilton hotel.** Only two hotels (used by businessmen in Kingston, Jamaica, and Port of Spain, Trinidad) of the seven Hiltons in the Caribbean don't have oceanfront and/or a golf course.

The planned resort on Bonaire, to be built inland behind the Plaza Hotel adjacent to the airport, hasn't a beach or golf course! I cannot imagine that a visitor to a Hilton resort, taking a beautiful beach for granted, could be enchanted by its replacement by the "peaceful and romantic canals." During my

visit to the site, enclosed by roads on its three sides and facing a growing housing community behind the Plaza, I concluded that while it might be suitable for construction of additional houses, it's certainly not for a first class hotel resort. My advice to the developer is just to forget this location and not to lose any more money in preparation of the project, even if the government will award permits. The developer knows certainly that the Hilton Group left Aruba after operating the present Westin Hotel on the Palm Beach because the results did not meet Hilton's expectations, although the hotel is located on the famous Palm Beach and not on artificial canals.

The only advantage of the given location on Bonaire is that since no artificial beach is planned it will be easy to get all necessary permits.

The government of Bonaire, mistakenly convinced that the construction of new big hotels means progress for the island, has a big problem. That's because no international hotel chain is prepared to operate a Caribbean resort without a beach. The fact is, that **no artificial beach**



Hilton Barbados

may be built on Bonaire and it is already high time that the government comes to grips with that. It is forbidden by the valid construction guidelines, but even if the government did grant an exception, it is absolutely sure that the local environmental groups would block the beach construction the moment the first cubic meter of sand, brought from another island or from Venezuela, is dumped in the water.

The Bonaire government might learn from the experience of Curacao. Although the local government, promoting the development of tourism, gave the developer all necessary permits, the works on the new Marichi beach had to be stopped after several hundred cubic meters (a small part of planned volume of 40,000 cubic meters) of sand were

dumped. It was the result of a coordinated effort of four local environmental groups. The judge prohibited continuation of the work, and after a lengthy process the Curacao government agreed to pay NAf 40 million in damages to the developer. It

happened more than 10 years ago on Curacao, where the coral reef is not the main asset. Imagine what would happen on Bonaire whose whole future is dependent on its coral reef! Any damage caused by covering it with a layer of sand particles must be avoided!

The government of Bonaire must finally abandon its fixed idea that the construction of new big hotels is important for the development of the island. An obvious choice for a hotel developer would be to complete the construction of the Esmeralda Hotel whose designer had planned to locate the beach around an already excavated lagoon and not directly on the coast. In this way, the damage to the coral reef could be substantially reduced. Anyway, if this hotel is not completed, it must be demolished.

By the way, I doubt that the Divi Group, which planned to start the construction of its Divi Sunset Resort last March, will take the risk that the reconstruction of the former Sunset beach will be blocked by the environmental groups. It can be expected that their efforts would be certainly much fiercer than the actions of similar groups on Curacao 10 years ago.

Azul Management Bonaire, the Divi Group and the government of Bonaire, you have been warned. □ *Jiri Lausman*

Editorial

Why Oppose Big Development?

Simply said, because Bonaire doesn't have what it takes. Mass market tourists want broad beaches, contrived entertainment and endless shopping. Of course, except for the beaches they could all be made available in a few years right here. But to imagine our island could successfully compete with established destinations that are easier to travel to, less expensive and more exotic is a delusion.

To build and service mass tourism would mean a substantial influx of outsiders who would be the first to benefit from the new visitors. Just establishing the new facilities and activities would shred Bonaire's culture and environment.

And, when the novelty wears off and the new arrivals find Bonaire is not to their expectation, the ruins will depress locals and repel visitors. Just travel through the Bahamas where this scenario has been played before. Investors too would become disillusioned with the island and flee.

So what is the route to a better life for Bonaireans and the foreigners who will travel here to better their lives? For the foreseeable future, tourism, the planet's biggest industry is the answer. But why can't it be tourism that builds on the assets that Bonaire already possesses? The 19th and 20th century wave of consumerism mostly bypassed Bonaire as it engulfed Aruba and Curacao, leaving our island unspoiled and under populated. Now, with Bonaire becoming closer with Holland, may be the time to consider making it a Dutch St. Barths - upscale, picturesque and desirable to the affluent whose numbers are fewer.

It's a truism that things must get better economically before they can improve environmentally. Economic improvement is already happening. Protecting the environment and projects like sustainable energy will attract the tourists who will be prepared to pay for Bonaire's riches. □



G.D.

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CLEAR BLUE WATER NEWS

LMSP Volunteer Reports

BONAIRE'S REEF-WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT

Bonaire continues in its effort to capture the information needed to evaluate the health of the reef.

Since the last report two new donors, Diedre Pederson from the charter boat *Woodwind*, and Harrie Cox from Hato, have made sizeable donations, the data collection has continued without incident and efforts to form a Sea Monitor Foundation are nearing completion.

The Sea Monitor Foundation has named a board of directors and will register with the Notaris this Friday. The Directors include project sparkplug Albert Bianculli, Bonaire artist and craftsman Adi Figaroa, Biologist Caren Eckrich, Diver Bill Wildin, Environmentalist and Administrator, Veronika Chmelová.

The purpose of the Foundation is only to attract funding and manage data collection. It does not evaluate data. That is done by the scientists at the USC lab in California. The lab presents its findings to STINAPA, which, after further analysis of the data, recommends or defines rules and if appropriate, enforces them.

We've been asked what does

measuring light have to do with figuring out what is in the water. As every underwater photographer knows, seawater absorbs colors unevenly. The red is first to go, followed by the blue. Green is the least absorbed color. This absorption characteristic of pure seawater is well known to scientists who use sophisticated and expensive underwater measuring equipment to determine the components of the water. If color absorption is unusual in the blue, it indicates the presence of chlorophyll, a byproduct of nutrients. On the other hand, if the absorption is unusual in the ultraviolet it indicates dissolved organic matter usually produced on land. In fact, modern ocean monitoring equipment can measure considerably more than these components. Two American scientists, Burt Jones and Tom Reynolds, developed a unique low-cost solution that, with the cooperation of diver volunteers, meets Bonaire's needs.

One thing it does is measure the effect of nutrients in the water that can lead to excessive algae growth and animal and



A juvenile file fish between two LMSP sensors

LMSP "theme photo" by diver volunteer Irene DaCunda

human waste which can choke the reef to death. □ Albert Bianculli/ G.D.

For more information, to donate or to volunteer contact:

Ramon de Leon, Manager of the BNMP, marinepark@stinapa.org or

Albert Bianculli, LMSP On-Island Coordinator, Volunteers and Fundraising, directab@gmail.com or

Blue McRight, LMSP Off-island Coordinator, Fundraising blue-ness@earthlink.net. □

Checking the monitor arrays is not much of a chore considering the experiences of the LMSP Volunteers. We will be bringing them to you every issue.

Comments: ...Friday, November 23, 2007 ...Cleaned and read. Everything in good condition. Two baby slender file fish have now adopted this site for temporary housing also, as they have at least two other sites. One was hiding under the "do not remove" Marine Park tag at about 6 meters. The other was on the sensor array at 5 meters. While I was cleaning, they drifted out a meter or so from the mooring line. I reached out and guided them back in with a cupped hand and they settled back in. Cute little critters, and I do mean little.....maybe about 3/8ths of an inch.

The orange seahorse has reappeared, but it had moved about 100 meters North from where it had been. Seems like a large move for a seahorse from my experience. Anyway, it is found again, so we are happy. We hate losing Seahorses.....especially colorful ones.

A nice Spotted Eagle Ray entertained us on our way to the mooring site. It was feeding at about 20 feet, and taking its time to root here and there for a mid morning snack. It was in no hurry and made a couple circles in its search. Two nice Tarpon glided by after the Spotted Eagle Ray "flew" away. Some large Cubera snappers kept a watch on us near the site, along with a small school of Bermuda chubs. Bill & Prawphan Wildin

Wednesday, November 21, 2007 ... Today was the first reading of "Salty" (Buddy Dive Resort). We entered at the dock and swam out to the boat buoy then dropped down. My dive buddy was counting fish species while I was busy cleaning the line as well as the sensors. After I finished we swam to the small wreck north of Buddy Dive. Out in the blue we saw 2 cubera snapper. One was very large and being followed by the smaller one. At about 35 feet we noticed that this area is abundantly covered with lobe star coral. We will be checking this coral on every sensor cleaning day. Cassandra E. Neal

Saturday, December 01, 2007, visibility was once again very good at 100'. The sensors at the 5m mooring had moved into a vertical position due to the stretching of the line. I removed them, gave them a good cleaning and repositioned them lower down the line.

After finishing with all of the sensors, I continued on my dive. As is customary, the dive was very nice and full of critters such as the red frog fish, two trumpet fish sparring, 100's of chromis, a large snapper (I have to look in the fish ID book to see what kind), tarpon, and much, much more.

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Craane Sisters Open Downtown Office

Sisters Who Came Back To Bonaire



Elizé, John, Marie and Betty Craane at the opening

Sisters Marie and Elizé Craane each has her own business. Marie is a speech therapist (*Logopedische Praktijk Craane*) and Elizé is the director of Infinity Enterprises, a company that does business administration. Both young women are Bonaireans who went away to study in Holland and have since returned to their native island, each of them to give something back. And they're practical too, sharing the costs of their downtown office at Centrum Gebied 2 which is next to the Royal Palm Galleries and faces the parking lot in the center of town.

Since returning to Bonaire five years ago Marie has worked with government insurance and other patients and has been active in developing programs and lesson materials for SEBIKI and FORMA

Elizé has gained experience with Tene Boneiru Limpi and the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance. She has an MBO degree in secretarial work and has increased her education with Quick Books and management courses on the island. She's also a tour guide.

You may reach Marie or Elizé at their office number 717-7775, fax 717-7795. Marie's cell is 785-0080 email mi-craane@telbonet.an. Elizé's cell 786-1367; email infinityenterprises@telbonet.an. □ L.D.

Emigration Fair - Would You Like to Come to Bonaire?

The annual International Emigration Fair will be held in Nieuwegein (Utrecht, The Netherlands) on 8th and 9th of March 2008. The 11th edition of the fair will bring together all the options in one place for a generation of people who are planning to start an international career, improve their life-style, find a job abroad, escape from every day life, live overseas, set up their own business, discover the world through study abroad, work and volunteer opportunities.

The Fair 2008 caters to emigrants, jobseekers, expats, entrepreneurs, students, business immigrants and those interested in volunteer programs, as well as to professionals from the entire gamut of related issues. Emigration 2008 is the single most important event of this kind that takes place in the Netherlands." (www.emigratiebeurs.nl).

This year, as a first, the Emigration Fair will host a stand from Bonaire which promotes remigration. The foundation, "Ban Boneiru Bèk" (BBB), has been invited to the Fair at the Home Boxx Exhibition Center near Utrecht. BBB's goal is to have people from Bonaire go abroad to study, but then to come back to Bonaire to help the further devel-



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BON AERO CLUB TRAINS SIX PRIVATE PILOTS



Recently six flight training students passed the FAA written exam to become Private Pilots. This exam is the first step to the PPL (Private Pilot License). Following this written part the students will receive many hours of flight training in the Cessna 172 airplane of the BonAeroClub, which has its home base at Flamingo Airport.

Never before in the history of Bonaire aviation has this many students passed the exam at the same time. It is the result of intensive personal study and training by FAA Instructor Roy Celestijn. The training took several months and was based on pilot training books and video material from the US.

The training course is an initiative of the BonAeroClub, the only flying club on Bonaire and one of the most active non-profit flying organizations in the Caribbean. The main goal of the course is to offer Bonairean citizens the possibility of achieving the FAA Private Pilot License for hobby purposes or as a start to a flying career.

Normally students have to go to the US to do the written exam, but in this case Mr. Jamal Mahawat Khan, president of the Aruba Flying Club, was authorized by the FAA to conduct the exam on Bonaire. For the practical exam the students will have to go to the US.

The students who passed are: **Gijs Hoogerkamp, Wietze Koopman, Carlos Rodriguez, Nelgenn Vrutaal, Rene Essink and Marco van de Kreeke**. The picture shows five of the students with certificates and instructor Roy Celestijn in the middle. A new training course will start in January 2008. More information about the BonAeroClub:

www.bonaeroclub.com □ Press release

opment of the island. Bonaire needs people with skills in building houses, fighting crimes, educating people, etc. BBB wants to act as a facilitator for people who want to return home and the businesses who want to hire them. Check out the website:

www.banboneirubek.com for information on the Emigration Fair and more information on Ban Boneiru Bèk. Emigration from Holland.

Mary Ann Koops

Koops is a Biology Teacher at the SGB High School and writes frequently for The Reporter.



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Rent-A-Chef

Philip's Cooking & Organizing is getting more and more involved in private dinners, catering



and wedding services on Bonaire. It all started with providing the snacks at several parties at Jibe City Beach Bar. Over the last few weeks they offered their services to many different clients for a variety of occasions. Among these were an Italian evening at Caribbean Chillout, where about 30 people enjoyed the nice atmosphere of this complex and the delicious Italian food cooked by Philip and Suze. An evening of Greek food is planned.

Philip's Cooking organized a party at the new beach opposite Windsock as a promotion for the new apartments that are for sale. A Dutch film crew was also present there to make a documentary about "Diving on Bonaire."

Philip had to do everything from scratch because there was nothing on site: no cooking equipment or refrigeration. So everything had to be hired: a gas oven, cooling, tables, chairs, linen, plates, forks and knives, glasses, extra lights, etc. And of course all the shopping and preparing had to be done even before the party started. This usually takes one or two days. On the day of the party everything got transported to the location and set up. When the party starts the cooking has already begun earlier and continues throughout the event. When the party is over the work goes on: cleaning up and the transportation back home.

Philip also prepared series of private dinners at people's houses and catered several private and business parties. So if someone wants to hold a dinner party they only have to tell Philip or Suze what they want and everything will be arranged: from preparing the house, the dining table, shopping for the food and wine, the actual cooking and serving and off course the cleaning up afterwards. In fact, one of the clients asked: "Can't you do this every day? That would make life very easy."

If you want to know more about their services, please see their website (www.philipscoking.com) or call 701-1100. Let Philip perform your cooking chores. □

Press release

FKPD Dream Come True



Greta Kooista photo

Officials at the opening of the FKPD Center

Fundashon Kuido pa Personanan Desabilitá (FKPD), the Foundation for the care of the Disabled, just officially opened a beautiful place at Kaya Sonmontuno (not far from Kaya Nikiboko Noord) to take even better care of people with disabilities. The 16 inhabitants and the daily visitors trained for some time to make the opening a special event.

FKPD now has four houses where the Foundation's clients live permanently. Two houses are reserved for those who can take care of themselves but who just need a little help every now and again.

The other two houses are home to people who need help around the clock. They are arranged in such a manner that these special inhabitants can be taken care of while they live there comfortably. The houses are nice, spacious and have a cool breeze going through them. Every resident has his or her own room, with a personal key.



Mary Ann Koops photo

Director Lupe Uranie and her coworkers are very happy with this new place. There is also a care center for the daily visitors. The people from FKPD can take care of children, adults and elderly (50+) at the same site. The center is equipped with a special room for speech therapy and a fitness room for physical therapy. All this is arranged so the people from FKPD can fulfill what is promised in their logo: "People helping other people who need the help." □
Mary Ann Koops



Tropical Divers Bonaire held a PADI IDC, Dive Instructor Development Course last month. The 11 candidates were instructed in two languages: English and German.

The local students were: Richard Aguilar (US), Black Durgon Inn; Rita Pelloni (Italy), Buddy Dive; Willem Kalkwiek (Netherlands); Lawrence Cilissen (Belgium), Capt. Don's Habitat; Bas Noij (Netherlands); and a new IDC Staff Instructor, Marko van Eerd from Toucan Divers. Overseas students included Arne Vogler (Germany), Alexander Skrivaneck (Germany), Michael Axt (Germany), Inka Luebecke (Germany), Carolina Johansson (Sweden). Involved staff from Tropical Divers were Thomas Kurtz (PADI Course Director), Claus Neumann (PADI Master Instructor), and Sigrid Lottra (PADI IDC Staff Instructor). □ *Press release*

Sea Turtle Tracking Pays Off

For the first time since Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) began the satellite monitoring program it received information that a turtle tagged this year in Bonaire at Lac Bay was rescued on 23 November. The news was reported through WIDECAST Marine Turtle Tagging Center which received the information from one of the Coordinators of Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society.

The turtle was rescued in Vigilance, Guyana. It seems to have once been caught in a fishing net as the front flipper was damaged and bleeding from cuts sustained from the net. The turtle got stuck in the mudflats at low tide. Some teenage boys saw the turtle and collected it. It was carrying a Bonaire tag number. The turtle was released back into the Atlantic Ocean around 4:30 pm. This turtle was identified as Green turtle #07-080. It was originally captured and tagged on March 22 this year in the area of Lac (latitude 12°5.5610N – longitude 68° 13.657W) by STCB staff.

Sea turtle conservation organizations and projects and scientists working on sea turtle biology and conservation world-wide realize that the mission of protecting these endangered species goes beyond our own frontiers and that team work is essential to be able to accomplish their goals. For further information about sea turtles please contact us at our headquarters, Kaya Grandi 67 or by e-mail to stcb@bonaireturtles.org. □

Mabel Nava



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Sanikolas Comes to Town



On Saturday, November 24, Sint Nicholaas (*Sanikolas*) and his assistants, the Black Piets (*Swarte Pieten*), arrived in Bonaire aboard a boat. A record-breaking crowd of excited children and adults swarmed the pier to catch a glimpse of him and the Swarte Pieten. Every child on the island must have been there, accompanied by his or her equally spirited parents or elders. Sint Nicholaas and Swarte Pieten's procession from the pier to Wilhelmina Park was accompanied by the soul-stirring beat of the drum corps. The Swarte Pieten cavorted through the crowd, dancing and swinging their sacks and ropes and teasing the children.

This was the 13th year that the *Fundashon Ata Sanikolas I Zwartepiet* and SEBIKI organized such an event and it was an all out success. Thanks to all of them for their tireless work.

Although Sint Nicholaas is associated with gift giving and the Christian holiday his history lies in Dutch folklore and tradition, originating more than 600 years ago when the Bishop of Madrid, Spain, gave gifts to everyone on his birthday, December 6. This bishop, it is said, originally came from Turkey with his helpers who were black (*swarte*). At that time Holland was ruled by Spain, so when Sint Nicholaas comes he arrives from Spain by boat. Then he continues his travels on a white horse. He always arrives in November because he has so much work to do, finding out which children have been good enough to receive pre-

sents. Those who have been bad will be spanked with the Swarte Pieten's ropes or brooms and those very bad will be thrown into the sacks and taken back to Spain! He keeps a big book with the names of all children and whether they have been good or bad.

On December 4, the eve of Sint Nicholaas' birthday, children put out their shoes with maybe some carrots or hay for the white horse, hoping they will receive a small gift in return.

On the big day itself, December 5, the family sits together, singing, having sweets and hot chocolate, hoping that the weather (in Holland) will not be too bad so that he will arrive.

At 8 pm Sint Nicholaas and his

helpers land on the roof of the house and the Swarte Pieten throw the gifts down the chimney. Or Sint

Nicholaas might bang on the door, asking, "Are there any bad children here?" Everyone calls back, "No!"

For the Dutch this is the time for gift giving, and Christmas is a more holy time, not commercial like that in America, although we've learned that the merchants in Holland are now promoting gift giving for both holidays.

This Sint Nicholaas tradition is totally Dutch, but the people in the former Dutch colonies all over the world have embraced it – so much so that it seems to be completely accepted that this

cleric, bearing gifts and dressed for very cold weather in heavy robes and cloak and miter, does not seem unusual in such tropical climes as that of Bonaire, the other islands of the Dutch Antilles or Indonesia. □

L.D.



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For Sale: Bachelletta Strada, "high racer" style recumbent road bicycle, in excellent condition, with Shimano 105 components. Has upgraded fork, stem, carbon fiber Spinnergy wheels, and spare tires and tubes. NAf 3500. Brad Swanson 717-8814

For Sale. Real American Double Pillowtop mattress set. Full size (135 cm x 190 cm) incl. cotton sheets and mattress pad. J.A. Abraham #10 (behind Cactus Blue)

If you have a Scubaproo Mk 16 or 18 first stage and have had problems with the high pressure seats, Carib Inn now has upgrade kits that make this into the newest Mk 17 style. Contact Bruce at the Carib Inn for pricing etc. 717-8819

For Sale: FIAT Barchetta 1.8 Cabrio, 2 seats, with hardtop, NAf 7.900. Tel. 796-5591.

Samsonite briefcase, almost new, with keys and code-locks, NAf 100, and a Samsonite beauty case, black, NAf 45, tel. 796-5591.

Fuji DL-8 camera with small HAMA bag, and 1 fresh colorfilm 28 pcs, NAf 25, tel. 796-5591.

Sudoku game-computer NAf 17,50, tel. 796-5591.

Houseboat for sale, newly furnished and great rental options. Spotless appearance with lots of space. Very complete w/AC and full kitchen. 40,000 euro. Call for further info. Phone 786-5212

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Famous photographers, Dos and Bertie Winkel, are back on "their" Bonaire. They will offer book-signing sessions at Buddy Dive during the free rum punch party from 17:30 till 18:30 on two Fridays, the 7th and 14th and Thursday 20th of December. They have published four new books which you can buy all around Bonaire but also at the book signings. Everybody is welcome to get their copy signed!!

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 4) decade, has been revitalized by a Curacao development group. According to a press release from Caribbean Homes, one of the several Bonaire realtors authorized to sell the lots, "The developer has taken "SABADECO" as an example of a well organized plan where high quality infrastructure and strict construction rules have ensured a harmonious end result. On Bona Bista these standards will not only be met, but even surpassed."

► **Bonaire developers might want to consider emulating Star Island**, currently under development in the Bahamas to open in late 2009. It plans a high-luxury, high-sustainability mix of private homes, residences and bungalows, complete with a spa, restaurants, bars, pools, tennis courts and a "no-fuel" marina). Star Island's real difference is its commitment to preserving its immediate surroundings and mitigating the impact of tourism. Every part of its development and operation will be sustainable from the materials used in its construction to its alternative-energy sources, from the coffee served in the restaurants to the renewable bamboo sheets on the beds, from its recycling systems to its community programs. It plans to convert its non-recyclable waste to energy, fuel and fertilizer. The landscaping will root out invasive species and favor indigenous plants that require minimal irrigation. Star Island's water needs will be answered by a rain-harvesting system and underground storage tanks. Drinking water will be purified through reverse osmosis systems.

► **The annual End of the Year Regatta organized by BSAF will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 10am.** Racing will be yachts, Optimists, windsurfers and fishing boats. The course is around Klein Bonaire and back to Kas di Regatta. It will start at Kas di Regatta on Playa Lechi. New this

year will be a Stand Up Paddle Board demo, the newest watersport creating a buzz in the windsurf world. Island guests and tourists are welcome to attend and participate in the races to create an international event. There will be a festive atmosphere all weekend at Kas di Regatta so all are encouraged to attend.

On Saturday, December 15 there will be a fishing tournament. Registration is Friday the 14th from 19:00-21:00. The fishing tournament begins Saturday morning early. For further information contact Elvis Martinus at 717-2288 for details.

► Have coffee and snacks on Friday morning and help Bonaire youngsters!

The students of The Stichting Project have opened a small place, Les Restaurant de Boulevard, at Kaya J.A. Abraham 27 – across from Cactus Blue and Casablanca. It's open only on Fridays from 9 am to 10:30 am where you can enjoy coffee, tea, tostis, cake and other homemade taste delights on the breezy terrace.

► Rincon will have its annual Marshé Navideño (Christmas Market) on Saturday, December 15 from 4 pm until midnight.

In addition to the stands selling food, drinks, gifts, crafts and more there will be live musical and dancing entertainment. The Rinconeros excel in parties and fun so don't miss this one. It's at the plaza in the center of Rincon. More information call Bebi Anthonie 717-3696 or Dorothy Cicilia 796-9046.

► The Casablanca Restaurant will be having special Christmas Menus on December 24, 25 and 26.

You have a choice of three different menus plus a children's menu. The price (NAf 65 or NAf 55) includes a beverage, starter, main dish, and dessert. Reservations are highly

(Continued on page 15)



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SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 6

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

Picture Yourself With The Reporter

Broadway, New York City, USA



Popular Bonaire artist Henk Roozendaal was invited to join an exhibition at a prestigious New York City art gallery last month. He was kind enough to send us this photo from on the scene. At the opening night at the Broadway Gallery were standing (from left to right): Bonaire author and jazz promoter Guus Geritsen; Bonaire born Myrena St. Jago; Henk Roozendaal himself; Myrena's husband, Sam Sherrod. Pictured sitting are Howard and Jodi Feller, visitors to Bonaire. □

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 THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com. (All 2007 photos are eligible.)

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

That larval fish like to settle on the reef during nights when there is a new moon? After spending their tender first few weeks or months in the

plankton, larval fish are ready to find a reef or seagrass bed or mangrove swamp and settle. At this stage they are still transparent (except for their eyes) and blend into the clear waters of the open ocean. It is thought that this coloration, or lack of, is a strategy to avoid predators. Once these tiny fish settle they will begin to get their color. Scientists use light traps and plankton nets to capture these larval fish in an attempt to find out more about their ecology. One of my students recently sampled larval fish during the new moon when the night sky is pitch black and the majority of larval fish are settling. One of the ways we sampled for fish was simple but very rewarding. From a dock, we pointed lights straight down into the water and swept a dip net with fine mesh through the water every 15 minutes. We found the most amazing assemblage of baby fish, including flounders, bonefish, damselfish, morays, scorpionfish, wrasses, gobies, blennies, and even one pipefish! This flounder was about 1.5cm long. □ *Caren Eckrich*



Photo by Annie Hillier



Biologist-Author 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 .

Sunbelt Realty

House of the Month | Salcedo | Crown Court 35

Stylish designed villa with large terrace and great pool

Total living area
3,420 sqft / 318 m²
excluding roof terrace

Total lot size
16,241 sqft / 1,508 m²

Private property

Asking price:
US\$ 975,000
buyers cost

This villa, designed by architect, is contemporary, spacious and has a well thought through floor plan. From almost all of the rooms there are great ocean views, over the pool. A guaranteed unobstructed ocean view is guaranteed when you are seated on one of the two roof terraces. Lay out: entrance into large living room with fully equipped open kitchen, half bathroom, two storage rooms, on either side of the home two bedrooms with en suite bathrooms and corridors with built in closets, huge sun terrace and pool and outdoor shower. Second floor hosts bedroom with bathroom and roof terrace. Third floor roof terrace.

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your own piece of paradise

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.	On the beach Extensive snack/salad/burger menu available daily from noon.
Bella Vista Restaurant, Buddy's Pool Bar Sea Side 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; Mon. - "Dive and Dine;" Wed. - "Live Cooking by the Chefs;" 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. Debro 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 Open for Dinner Monday through Satur-	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 28,50 or \$16.
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.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debro 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

SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights 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.

CELLULAR SERVICE

Mio offers the clearest, most reliable signal on the island. And their personnel are trained and friendly. Check out their "rugged" phone.

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.

Dive Inn—For your diving with a personal touch. Located in town at Chacha cha Beach. Drop ins and cruise ship passengers welcome

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

Interiours—(formerly Plantation) New name, same owner and location. Has lots of beautiful, often one-of-a-kind furniture, antiques, crafts and accessories from mainland China and Indonesia.

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. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

NATURE EXPLORATION

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapelling/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.

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.

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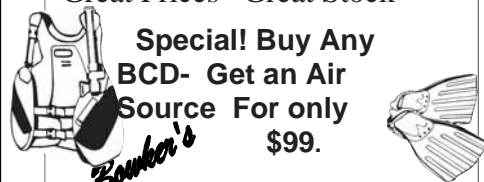
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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 12)

recommended. Call 717-4433 or email Casa-blanca@telbonet.an

► The New Year on Bonaire is celebrated with lots of fireworks. Many pets become very upset because of the noise. The New Year period sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. Fortunately, help is available in an inexpensive, non toxic form. See the pet of the Week Column on page 19.

► Just in time for the holidays Green Label has stocked some beautiful red poinsettias. They also have four different types of basil and other herbs right now. Green Label is on Kaya Industria, behind TIS, which is next to Warehouse Bonaire.

► Late news! The TCB named businesswoman Marisela Croes President of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire Board of Directors. Croes is Director of United Colors of Benetton and Rocargo as well as past President of the Rotary Club. Other board members are Jeffrey Levenstone (DROB), Evo Cecilia (STINAPA and Bonaire Government), Dirk Jan Methorst (Jibe City and Budget Car Rental) and Jack Chalk (Captain Don's Habitat).

► The TCB reported that tourism increased overall by 13.8% in the first half of 2007 compared to the same period in 2006. They project that 2007 will show an overall increase of 10%. Prospects for 2008 are encouraging especially because of the start of service by Delta Airlines.

► As we go to press Ramonsito Booi's UPB, Green Party, threatened to split from the Central Government, and all the Bonaire Island Government UPB commissioners resigned on Tuesday in protest to the top Dutch official involved directly with the Antilles, Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten's decision to give the "Black Book" published by the self-named Fundashon Bon Gobernashon (Bonaire Good Government Foundation) to the Curaçao Public Prosecutor.

The Black Book has been in circulation for some weeks now and details misdeeds committed by the UPB during its time in power, including the period of its coalition with Nochi Willem's Paboso party. Until Bijleveld-Schouten's action it had been widely regarded as political mud slinging by discredited past officials.

UPB Commissioner Burney El Hage's view is Bijleveld "should know who these people are: Nochi Willem, rejected by the Bonairean voters; Jopie Giskus, dismissed due to bad policy at the public enterprises (WEB); and some other people who turned their backs on UPB and now want to take revenge; that is the Good Government Foundation. As commissioners, we have demanded protection from the party. If a person makes a mistake, he/she must be punished. But we will no longer allow those people to throw mud at us." In response to Booi's action the Central Government coalition registered an objection to the Netherlands in hopes of quashing the action. If the action proceeds developments can get interesting. □ G./L.D.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
12-08	11:46	2.1FT.	22:14	0.8FT.					68
12-09	12:13	2.1FT.	22:49	0.7FT.					73
12-10	12:46	2.1FT.	23:21	0.7FT.					78
12-11	13:22	2.0FT.	23:54	0.7FT.					81
12-12	0:26	0.7FT.	13:55	2.0FT.					82
12-13	0:55	0.7FT.	14:35	1.9FT.					80
12-14	1:14	0.8FT.	15:21	1.8FT.					76
12-15	1:22	0.9FT.	16:08	1.6FT.			69		
12-16	1:14	1.0FT.	9:08	1.5FT.	12:39	1.4FT.	17:16	1.5FT.	62
12-17	0:56	1.0FT.	8:30	1.6FT.	15:38	1.3FT.	18:20	1.4FT.	55
12-18	0:41	1.0FT.	8:45	1.8FT.	16:53	1.1FT.	19:48	1.2FT.	53
12-19	0:34	1.0FT.	9:18	1.9FT.	18:01	1.0FT.	21:25	1.1FT.	56
12-20	0:26	0.9FT.	9:52	2.1FT.	18:56	0.9FT.	23:07	1.0FT.	65
12-21	10:30	2.2FT.	19:56	0.8FT.					76
12-22	11:17	2.2FT.	20:44	0.7FT.					87
12-23	12:00	2.2FT.	21:41	0.6FT.					95
12-24	12:45	2.2FT.	22:28	0.6FT.					100
12-25	13:35	2.1FT.	23:06	0.6FT.					100
12-26	14:19	2.0FT.	23:42	0.7FT.					97
12-27	0:11	0.8FT.	15:12	1.9FT.					89
12-28	0:43	0.8FT.	15:57	1.7FT.					79
12-29	1:01	0.9FT.	9:25	1.5FT.	13:00	1.4FT.	16:48	1.5FT.	67
12-30	1:06	1.0FT.	8:44	1.6FT.	15:25	1.3FT.	17:44	1.4FT.	54

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Now Through December 31 – Art Exhibition by Frans Booi and Winfred Dania at the Kas di Arte. Open daily from 10 am. See page 18.

Now until December 31—MCB's 45th Anniversary Celebration—See page 4

Friday, December 7 - Bonaire Animal Shelter bi-annual fundraising event - an Indonesian meal followed by an art auction. Sunrise Restaurant at Sand Dollar. Dinner (NAf45 per person) is at 6. Auction starts at 8:30 pm (auction is free). Tickets Asecom NV, (717-3207), Jacobs Architecten NV, (787-0466), Babs Domburg (786-1512), Jan Kercklaan (786-3454), Animal Shelter Bonaire (717-4989) Or by email: paulwichers@flamingotv.net. See page 19.

Saturday, December 15-Sunday, December 16 -Fishing Tournament and End of the Year Regatta For further information contact Elvis Martinus at 717- 2288.

Saturday, December 15 -Rincon's annual Marshé Navideño (Christmas Market) Food, drinks, gifts, crafts, live musical and dancing entertainment. 4pm—Midnight. Info: Bebi Anthonie 717-3696 or Dorothy Cicilia 796-9046.

Saturday, December 15 – Christmas Concert – Flamingo Rockers, Captain Goyla, Three Colors and Chofi y Su Mini Show, at Coco's, 6:30 pm

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, 10 am—2 pm: Friday, Dec. 7-*Wind Star*; Monday, Dec. 10 -*Emerald Princess*; Wednesday, Dec. 12-*Crown Princess*; Thursday, Dec. 13-*Sea Cloud*; Monday, Dec. 17-*Arcadia*

REGULAR EVENTS

The popular **SGB High School restaurant, Chez Nous**, has recently reopened to the public. Four-course dinners with welcome cocktail on Tuesdays. Seating begins at 6 pm. Lunches on Wednesday & Thursdays. Call 717-8120, ask for Chez Nous or email: keeslee-man@telbonet.an

- HH 2 for 1 (all beverages) 6-7 pm, **Divi Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar**
- HH—50% off- **Buddy Dive Resort**, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- **Divi Flamingo Casino** open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 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) with live mariachi- **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. 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.

- **Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

- **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.

- **Mountain Bike Training for riders of all levels (also Tuesday)** at 5pm. Bonaire Wellness Connexions, Eden Beach, 785-0767, email info@bonairewellness.com

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

- **Chill Out with the Flamingo Rockers** at Den Laman's Reef Restaurant. 4 pm. and goes to 7:30. Hear your favorite Rock 'n Roll, Reggae, Soul, Country and Calypso.

Mondays

- **Dinner and a Show at Casablanca Argentinean Grill**—**Reporter** writer **Albert Bianculli** presents his **Multi-Image Production "Bonaire Holiday"** at 6:30pm, 7:30 pm & 8:30pm

- **"Dive & Dine"** **Buddy Dive Resort**, 6:30 –9:30 pm

- **Soldachi Tour of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesdays

- **Margarita & Taco Tuesdays!** With \$2.50 Margaritas and a Taco bar! Plus Live music by the Flamingo Rockers, 6-8pm **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar**

Wednesdays

- **"Live Cooking by the Chefs"** with live music by the Flamingo Rockers **Unplugged - Buddy Dive Resort**, 6-10 pm

Thursdays

- **Flamingo Rockers**, at **"Admiral's Hour"** for yachtsmen and others, Vespucci Restaurant, Harbour Village Marina. HH drinks, gratis tapas, 5-7

Fridays

- **Le Boulevard Restaurant**, open 9 –10:30 am. Only on Fridays. Coffee, tea, homemade baked goods. Stichting Project. Kaya J.A. Abraham#27

- **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.

- **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, Live music by Flamingo Rockers, **Divi Flamingo, Balashi Beach Bar** 6-7 pm

- **Free Rum Punch Party** (5:30- 6:30 pm) with Moogie Nation, followed by all-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

Monday- Land & Ocean Bonaire by Fish-Eye photo staff, 8 pm on the big screen in front of Bonaire Dive & Adven-

ture.

Tuesday—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, **Buddy Dive Resort**, 7 pm—717-3802.

Wednesday—**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** (717-8819) at 7pm.

Wednesday—**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.

Mangasina 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 : 786-4651 or 786-7699 .

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm at Sunrise Pool Bar. all levels, NAf2.50. Call Joop 717-5903 or be there by 7:15. **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 Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesday**, 12 noon-2 pm - '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, Sundays, 10 am. *Rincon*, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

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

New Apostolic Church: 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, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm 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

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

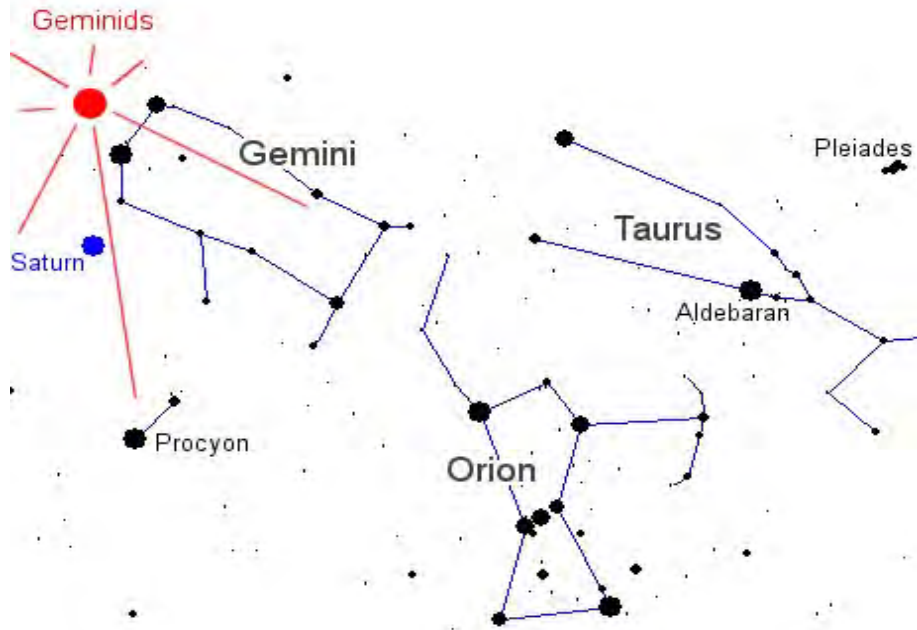
Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518 or 790-8988



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up



On Thursday evening, December 13th from 9 pm to midnight, and on Friday, the 14th, from midnight to dawn, Sky Park watchers will be treated to the only known asteroid shower. Officially known as the **Geminid Meteor Shower**, in reality it is an **asteroid shower** because it is the only meteor shower which comes from asteroid debris and not comet debris. Plus next week the asteroid responsible for this shower, **3200 Phaethon**, will make its closest approach to **Earth** since its discovery in 1983.

Next Thursday evening, December 13th, about 9 pm Sky Park time, face east where you'll see some of the brightest stars of winter: the seven bright stars of **Orion** and the two brightest stars of **Gemini** the twins for which this Geminid meteor/asteroid shower is named because all the meteors will appear to originate from Gemini. Plus this year there will be a super bright light in Gemini which is rouge-gold **Mars** which is now brighter than any star in the sky and which won't be this bright again until the year 2016! Plus it will be officially at opposition on Christmas Eve.

Now the time to start watching the Geminids will be around 9:30 to 10 o'clock because then the **Moon** will have set so there will be no moonlight to wipe out the faintest meteors. And as always you should be as far away from city lights as possible. You may see a few dozen meteors per hour. And by meteors I mean streaks of light flashing across the sky, which most people incorrectly call shooting stars. Now a meteor is nothing more than a tiny speck of space debris which slams into our Earth's atmosphere so fast that its friction heats up the gasses in our Earth's atmosphere and causes them to glow like the gasses in a neon tube. What we see is a brief streak of light as the speck of space debris burns up and plunges to its fiery death. Now a few times every year our Earth regularly plows into massive concentrations of space debris which we call meteor streams but which are really great rivers of comet dust. You see comets orbit our **Sun** just like the planets, and every time a comet comes close to our Sun it sheds some of its material. Eventually this comet debris gets spread all along its orbit and whenever our Earth plows into one of these debris rivers we experience a meteor shower. The best one usually occurs in August and is called the **Perseid Meteor Shower**. But the second best is often December's Geminid Meteor Shower, which, as I mentioned earlier, is different from all the others because its debris comes from an asteroid not a comet! If you watch from around 9:30 to midnight you'll notice that Gemini, Mars and Orion will all move higher and higher, reaching their highest point around 2 am, after which you'll have to face west as Gemini slowly descends. Happy asteroid shower! □ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the Month of December 2007
By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your doubt could lead to insecurity. You need to challenge yourself. Your mind may not be on the job. You will have to be careful not to let others find out about your intentions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. Be confident in your endeavors and others will believe in your efforts. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Get into some activities that will help you in making new friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. You might not be as reserved on an emotional level as you'd like. Entertainment should include your whole family. This is a great time to mingle with people you would like to impress. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Resistance leading to conflict will only make it twice as hard to turn the situation around. You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. Strong willpower will come to your rescue. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere. Your social skills with people may be more than just helpful. You could overreact to emotional situations regarding your relationship. You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Travel will be most enticing. Consider a cruise. Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You are best not to confront situations that deal with in-laws or relatives. Don't get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvements. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. Opportunities to get involved in self improvement projects will be rewarding. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can get your point across and make valuable connections. Make plans to do the things you enjoy. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be able to get to the bottom of things this month. Deal with the needs of children and get into groups that deal with self awareness. Older family members may try to make demands that are impossible for you to handle. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Stay calm and focus on things that will help you understand the situation better. Although upsetting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable. Sudden romantic encounters are quite likely, but discretion will be a must. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. You will be your usual charming self and the partners you attract may be the adventurous type. Think twice before eating spicy foods; you may have problems with your stomach. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

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Cultural Landmarks Bonaire

History - Mythology - Traditions - Architecture



Oranjeplan painting

Cultural Landmarks Bonaire is a unique art show featuring new works by Frans Booi and Winfred Dania. No longer will tourists and locals have to ask: "What does this site mean? What are the Indian Inscriptions? Mati Mati? What is the story behind Piedra Cruz? What is the Bonaire Stone? Grita Con-testa?" and on and on. Now they will be able to read for themselves the history and traditions behind these sites.

The pedestals of the Landmarks of Bonaire which have been empty for so long are being transformed into the cultural showpieces that they were always intended to be. They feature artworks by Frans Booi and Winfred Dania and text with a mixture of history, tradition and legend in both Papiamentu and English written by Frans and Maggie Booi.

The project was started many years ago by Frans Booi when he was the head of the Cultural Department of Bonaire. When he retired the project languished. That the pedestals remained empty for so long was a source of sadness to Frans and later to his wife Maggie which they both decided to rectify. After obtaining the permission from the Island Government they decided to donate their time and energy to finally completing this great project. Frans is painting the illustration art for most of the plaques.

There are presently six plaques finished with another eight to go. Six are already on their sites for tourists to see. Six duplicate plaques will be on display at Kas di Arte along with the original artworks and other new artworks by the artists.

Maggie's Wisconsin company, Industrial Graphics Corporation, is printing the plaques as a donation to Bonaire. The entire project is a donation from Frans and Maggie Booi. Arnold de Jong of Krioyo Paint, along with Bert Buisman, Henk Reekeies and Henk Bos of Blue Divers, donated all of the restoration work at Mamparia Cutu, and Krioyo Paint donated all of the paint for the remainder of the pedestals. Hubert Vis, Head of SKAL, has been the faithful, patient editor of the plaques, and Geraldine Dammers, former Commissioner of Education and Culture, also lent her support and Papiamentu expertise to the project. Winfred Dania from Museum Bonaire is painting the pedestals with his usual artistic flair. BONAI (the archeology program for teens) restored the Orange Pan pedestal and obelisk. STINAPA and the Kadaster both donated their Bonaire maps for differing uses during the project.

The Exhibit at Kas di Arte also features the Architecture of Bonaire with illustration art and photographs by Frans Booi, a Bonaire Star Map and other surprises to



Artist Frans Booi at the unveiling of the plaque.

see and to purchase.

Besides the original artworks for sale there are also beautiful original calabash ornaments made by Winfred Dania and signed by the artist and some reproduction artworks of Frans Booi. □

Maggie Booi

The show is open daily through December 31.



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TENE BONEIRU PLÁT?

Some weeks ago, on a fishing trip along the coastline of Kralendijk bay on board the *Piscatur*, we (the fishing friends) noticed and commented on the gradually changing profile of buildings on the shoreline of Playa Lechi and Belnem.



An old Bonaire high-rise resort

At least six condo buildings have sprung up, their height considerably exceeding the traditional height of 8 to 9 meters, based on the height of the old *Bestuurskantoor*. * Also one penthouse has been added, on top of the (already high) Belafonte condo/hotel building. And building proceeds in other spots. (* the actual height is 12,26 m, till the top ornamental stone).

One member of our party told us he had found in the family archive a color film dating back to 1962, showing the shoreline in its (then) pristine beauty. (This film will be aired in mid January after a *Herensia* TV program).

Another crewmember who had recently sold his house on the far end of Punt Vierkant to an aspiring young Dutch couple for a friendly price, told us how shocked he had been to learn that this couple was fronting for a developer who is now planning to put a five-story, 16-condo unit building on that spot, razing the charming Belnem villa that now stands there.

We decided it was time to do something about this situation of building lawlessness. As a judge remarked in a case that went to court, of neighbors protesting this cavalier attitude of developers, how could he render a reasoned verdict in the absence of a zoning regulation (*bestemmingsplan*) or a legal limit to building height, now solely ruled by the voluntary benchmark of the historical *Bestuurskantoor*?

We know that the island government (notably DROB) is working on this hot issue, but we also know from various sources and documents that came to our notice that there is a high degree of volatility in definitions applied (like when is a hotel a hotel, for whom a higher building limit would apply?); there is a lot of hearsay and gossip (like: the traditional height is not that of the *Bestuurskantoor*, but of the church spire of St. Bernardus Church, two to three times higher); rather arbitrary heights are being proposed, sometimes with strong lobby pressure behind it; and all the while building permits are being requested and

cannot be legally withheld, as matters stand now.

We – the fishing party – decided we should offer a sort of crystallization point for the widely held feeling that Bonaire is selling out, for a one-time profit of a few, one of its treasures, the unique shoreline not marred by high-rises and ugly block buildings, instead of the charming Bonaire habitat houses.

We agreed that our sole purpose would be to speed up, promote, assist and where necessary critically monitor the now impending regulation, backed by as broad a spectrum as possible of Bonairean citizenry.

This not going to be a witch-hunt against bona fide builders and developers, no picketing of building sites, not even an absolute maximum height regulation – for every 150 meter further inland one further story over the regulation maximum of three stories can be added without noticeably interfering with the shoreline profile, as the example of St. Tropez in southern France has proved, in its terraced building regulation. The only thing we want is a solid, legally backed regulation which gives firm footing to any building activity on the island, shoreline and inland.

We do not want to push politicians and/or public officials who are trying to do their job; we do not want to participate in litigation and collect money for the same; we do not want to take political sides or join any fanatical fringe; we just want to keep Bonaire the beautiful island it is now, for future generations of Bonaireans and visiting travelers.

We would like to hear from all Bonairean burghers, who are as concerned about this situation as we are, and would like to join this initiative and actively promote its goals in their own constituency, by sending an e-mail message to : Tene Boneiru Plát-form, clisa.nicholaas@gmail.com.

For the *Piscatur* fishing party,
Co de Koning

A more detailed situation report is being prepared for those who are prepared to join the initiative committee. □



Indonesian Meal And Art Auction

This Friday, December 7, is the Bonaire Animal Shelter's bi-annual fundraising event - an Indonesian meal followed by an art auction. It's all at the Sunrise Restaurant at Sand Dollar. The main sponsor of the Indonesian meal will be the **Warung Louise Indonesian Restaurant** who will take care of the food and the cooking.

All the proceeds will go to helping to keep the Bonaire Animal Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs.

The dinner is at 6 pm. The auction starts at 8:30 pm. The price for the Indonesian meal is NAf45 per person and tickets are available before the event. For the auction, no ticket is needed. Everyone is welcome! Sponsors and artists have contributed purely voluntarily and the Shelter wants to thank all these persons beforehand. Come join and have a very nice evening! Contact information is on page 16 in Happenings. □

Animal Help



The New Year's celebration will be festive when we ring in the year with fireworks, but our pets react with confusion due to the noise. The New Year period sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. Fortunately, help is available in an inexpensive, non toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety of stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since then people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year 2008, thanks to The Pet Project.

The next issue of *The Reporter* will have instructions as to giving pets the remedy and where to get it. The cost is NAf 2 which benefits the Animal Shelter.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com.

□ Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse and certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.

Pet of The Week

Elegance, refinement, royalty, self assured – these are some of the adjectives that come to mind when we see "Jessie," this slender white cat with the amber colored eyes. It was once believed that all white cats were deaf but that's not so. Although some white cats with blue eyes may be deaf, scientists say that not all of the blue eyed ones will be. And most certainly, those with other than blue colored eyes aren't usually. And this handsome boy certainly isn't deaf. In fact he has all his faculties and is completely alert at all times. I would hate to be a mouse nearby! Jessie was brought into the Shelter with his sister, Katie, when they were tiny kittens. Right now they're about five months old and just a beautiful pair. And as are all the other animals up for adoption, Jessie and Katie are in excellent health. They're very affectionate and love to be petted. They've had their shots and will be sterilized when they're old enough.



You may see them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. □ L.D.

Pet Gift Suggestions – and support the Shelter!

Having difficulty shopping for people on your Christmas gift list? If some of them are pet owners, maybe the solution is at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Gift Shop! The Shelter's gift shop is now stocked and open. You can purchase all sorts of dog and cat toys, collars, harnesses, leashes and pet treats that are not available anywhere else on the island. Items like Nylabones, Kong toys, large dog harnesses, catnip treats and cat tunnels, to name a few. Thanks to the generous donations of these brand new items by Bonaire Talk visitors and other tourists and residents, the price of these items is less than retail value (ranging from only NAf2 to NAf 25) and the entire purchase price goes directly to the Shelter. Also available are great t-shirts, tank tops and other "human" gift items. So stop by and visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter Gift Shop located at the Shelter, 26-A Kaminda Lagun. Hours are 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. □ Jane Madden

Jan Art Kids Aid the Shelter



For the upcoming Bonaire Animal Shelter Bi-Annual Art Auction Fundraiser on Friday, December 7, the JanArt students have been busy creating doggie portraits for auction (Paintings by Diane Werdath, Julia Marisol Martines, Kaile Finies and Janice Huckaby). At the last auction the group was very fortunate to have an art collector who bought the whole collection as a set. The Shelter would like to have the same thing happen again this year. The girls have worked very hard to paint their impressions of a smiling doggie to show how the animals feel after receiving donations to help the Shelter. We hope to see you there! □ JanArt – Janice Huckaby

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