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March 13-27, 2009; Volume 16, Issue 6

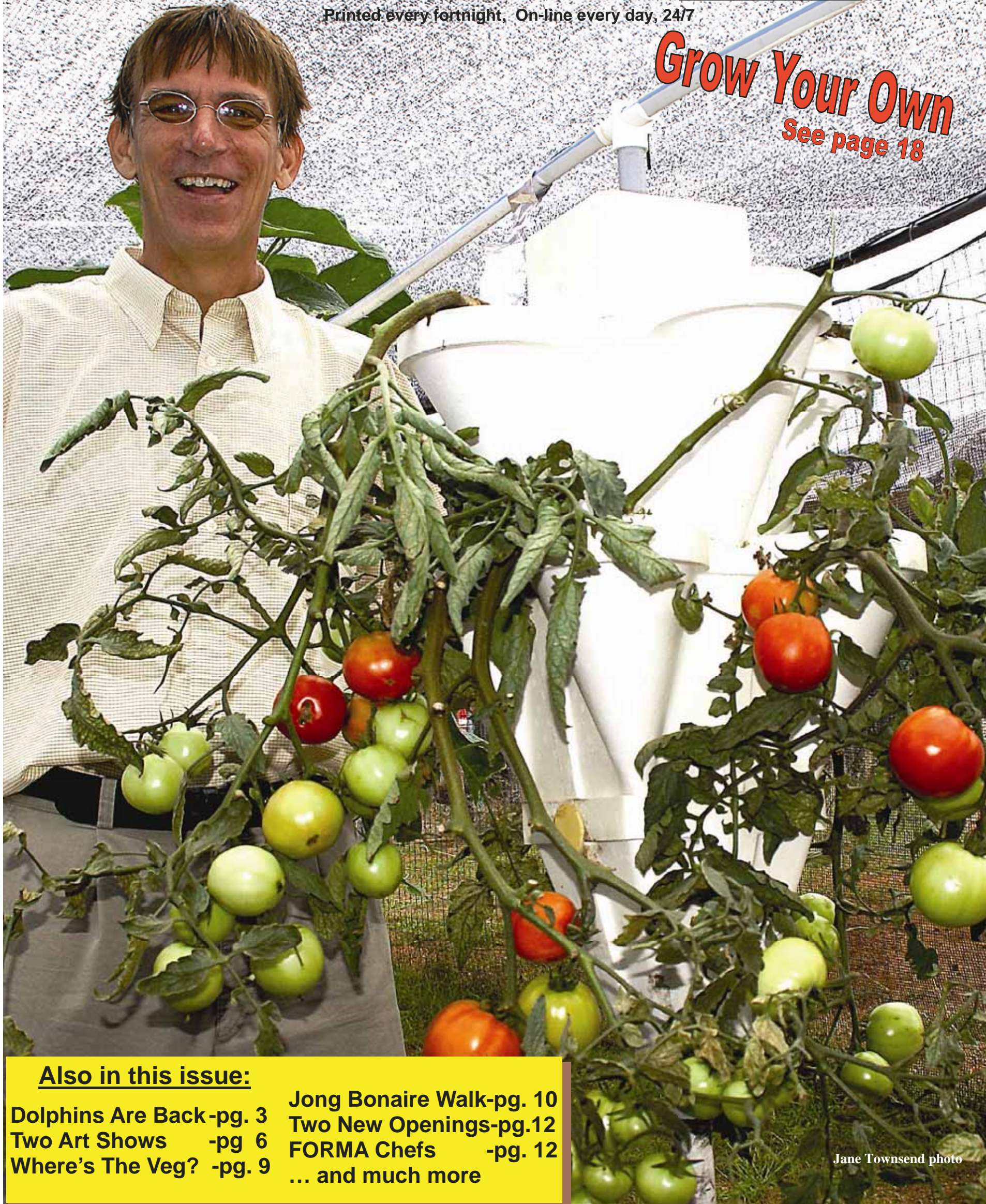
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Grow Your Own
See page 18



Jane Townsend photo

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... and much more

Flotsam and Jetsam

In line with a reorganization, American Airlines/American Eagle announced they would cancel their four weekly flights from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Bonaire effective May 1. Passengers holding tickets after that date should contact American as soon as possible.

Eight years ago American Eagle became the first US flag airline to serve Bonaire with scheduled flights. It was very popular, especially with visitors who used their frequent flyer miles. American continues to fly to Curaçao where convenient connection can be made via Divi Divi Air, Insel Air, Tiara Air, Dutch Antilles Express or EZ Air to Bonaire

American Eagle's pioneering efforts led the way for Continental (flying from Newark and Houston) and Delta Airlines (flying from New York and Atlanta) to offer non-stop Bonaire service which continue.

Plans are being reviewed for Curaçao's Insel Air to soon offer a Curaçao-Bonaire-Miami triangle route.



► Bonaire has one less flamingo. The Continental flight to Newark on Saturday, March 1, was delayed five hours because it hit a flamingo while landing at Flamingo airport. Have you ever wondered how the airport got its name? Now you know. Fortunately, the damage was only skin deep and temporarily repaired with body putty.

► Dutch State Secretary of Finance Jan Kees de Jager said in a letter he wrote to the Dutch

Parliament last week that the new fiscal regime for the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) will be based on three elements:

1. simple in application and execution,
2. broad-based with lower tax rates,
3. a move from direct to indirect taxes.

De Jager calculated that the draft legislation to come to a new tax system for the three islands will go to the Second Chamber (Dutch Legislature) in the second quarter of 2009.

The future tax system will be based on three legislative proposals: the Tax Law BES, the Customs and Excise Law BES, and the Implementation Law fiscal regime BES.

Elements of the existing Antillean tax system will serve as the foundation. He believes that the system will be easy to use for citizens and businesses and easy to enforce for the Dutch Tax Services.

► Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten on her visit to the Netherlands Antilles emphasized the cooperation between the Netherlands and the Antilles as well as the millions of euros that will be spent on education, public safety, poverty avoidance and good governance. While on Bonaire she visited the Foundation for Persons with Disabilities, FKPD; the neighborhood of Antriol; and the progress to restore underprivileged housing. There was an information meeting in the Sports Hall in the evening.

► Bonaire's lockup will comply with the norms of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by April 1 confirmed Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten in a letter to the Second Chamber two weeks

► Netherlands Antilles Olympic Sprinter Churandy Martina will not be awarded a silver medal for his 200 meter effort at the Beijing Olympics. The Olympic Committee of the Netherlands Antilles (NAOC) which appealed Martina's disqualification was notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) of the decision last Friday.



Martina was disqualified for stepping out of his lane in the 200 meter race as he chased Usain Bolt of Jamaica. Race officials did not see the infraction. The US protested and the medal was awarded to Shawn Crawford.

NAOC in the appeal argued the US protest was not filed in a timely manner; the protest appeal was on behalf of Shawn Crawford and without his consent. Crawford returned the medal to Martina.

Professor Luigi Fumagalli acted as Sole Arbitrator for the CAS. He ruled that while the CAS has jurisdiction to hear the dispute the CAS does not review decisions on the playing field unless there is clear evidence of "bad faith" or "malicious intent."

The appeal filed by NAOC against IAAF was dismissed.

ago. The Dutch Government made available an additional €5.5 million in 2008 to improve the quality of Antillean penal facilities.



Police Chief John Schagen

► "We have a (policing) situation in the BES Islands that is unique in the world - just one police corps with one chief for three islands which are located about 900 kilometers from each other," said an enthusiastic John Schagen. Currently, Schagen is still Chief of Police in Bonaire. Soon he will also be Chief of Police of Saba and St. Eustatius.

"The BES islands, together, be-

come one special municipality, with three lieutenant governors but one police corps. Three islands with three different cultures," Schagen said. The advantage of such a situation will be lower overhead because there will be just one administration center on the larger island, Bonaire. "We will get one high-tech reporting station for all the three islands. Employees of this station must not only be acquainted with Bonaire, but also with Saba and St. Eustatius. They will be working with the newest technologies, like digital road maps." That means a new way of thinking and a huge investment, Schagen said.

► The "Yes-No" referendum on the political future of Curaçao is going to be held on Friday, May 15, one week later than originally planned. During a marathon meeting the Curaçao Island Council agreed with the modification of the original proposed date of the Referendum

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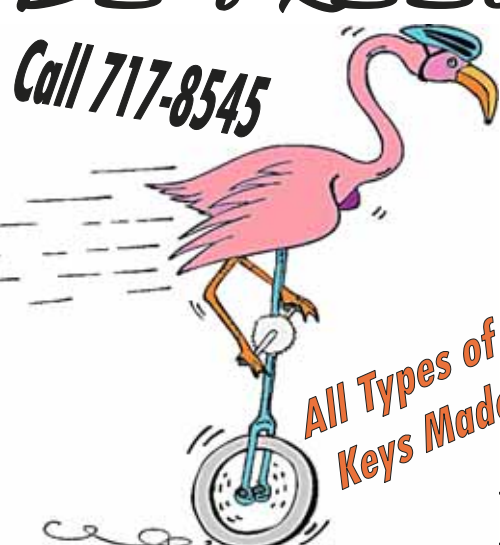
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They're Back!



Gary Wirth -Colombus Indiana photo

With only five confirmed sightings from May 2007 until the beginning of February this year many people have wondered whether the bottlenose dolphins had deserted the island. After all of the excitement about them at this time last year, we hoped that Bonaire might have its own group of Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins. However, this February has seen a return to normal with seven confirmed sightings compared with eight last year and five in 2007. March and April have also been good months in past years for the passage of Bottlenose Dolphins close to the drop off. Special thanks are due to our principal spotters so far this year -René Hakkenberg, Sonia Herlaar, Barbara Letwin and Eva van der Werf -who have kindly called when the Bottlenose Dolphins were passing,

so that we were able to enter the water and swim alongside the group for identification purposes. The February group this year seems to be at least 18 strong, with three juveniles, two of them being obviously new born. Photographs of dorsal fins have been taken to try to identify the individuals to see whether any were from the previous year's recordings. There was unfortunate incident on February 24 when a dive boat drove over the group and, as a consequence, they stayed in deep water presumably to protect their young, instead of swimming on the surface from north to south which is their usual pattern. **We would like to ask if it would be possible that all dive boats encountering the Bottlenose Dolphins swimming from north to south along the drop off could**



stay to the side of the group for observation, rather than driving through them.

There is another species of dolphin seen very frequently along the west coast of Bonaire and in the water between Bonaire and Klein Bonaire and they are called Spinner Dolphins. These are the animals that like to bow ride the boats, jump into the air around them and criss-cross the passage of the boat. It is likely that dive boat skippers might confuse the two different species.

Now that the Bottlenose Dolphins have returned it would be extremely helpful if anyone spotting them swimming south along the drop off could call me so that I can record, identify and track the group so that we can learn more about these animals. Call 717- 2458 or 795- 3368.

If anyone would like more information about the data being collected I will be pleased to share it in order that we may learn more about these magnificent creatures.

■ Ron Sewell

Bonaire Coastal Dolphin Project
Mobile: 795-3368

Email: ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com

Captain Craane Sails To A New Port

The Reporter extends its condolences to the family of John Philip Frederick 'Buchi' Craane Sr., who passed away last Saturday in St. Maarten. Born and raised on Bonaire, Buchi left the island and his family in 1955 to captain a schooner in the Dutch Windward Islands and made St. Maarten his home from then on. He spent most of his life working on and around boats. His love of boats was influenced by his father, Jan Nicolaas Erasmus "Kachi" Craane (1879-1974), who was a famous Bonaire boat builder. He is survived by his children and grandchildren, many of whom live on Bonaire.

As a youngster Buchi helped his father build boats after school. As a young man, he captained several of the boats his father had built, including the *Endeavour* and the *Rainbow*.

He was hired by the Central Government in 1954 and remained employed until an accident forced him to retire in 1987 at the age of 74. For the 33 years he worked for the government, he captained numerous boats: the schooner *Blue Peter*, *MV Antilia* and *MV Hertha*. He became a harbor pilot at St. Maarten's A.C. Wathey Pier in 1963 and served in that position until



1978, when he was named Harbor Master of St. Maarten and remained in that position until he retired.

It was this same dedication and contribution to the maritime sector that led the St. Maarten government to name the island's cruise ship terminal building after him. At his funeral St. Maarten Commissioner Heyliger told the church packed with family, friends and other mourners, "Rest assured the name 'Buchi' Craane will always remain a fixture in the history of St. Maarten." ■ G.D.

Thanks to historian Bòi Antoin for his *Herensia* (Heritage) series, background and photos. For more information go to <http://www.extrabon.com/edishon/edishon2006/extra2006-05-20-1.pdf>

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On The Island Since... Nov. 21, 2006 **Lee van Leeuwen**

“I don’t feel Dutch at all. I only feel Dutch when the national soccer team is playing. The Dutch are so different from me. So, when people ask me where I’m from, I always say Disneyland.

I don’t have a clue what I’m doing actually. That’s why I went into the military, to delay my decision as to what I was really going to do, and I still don’t know.

I entered the military in 1989 and I stayed there for 13 years: six years with the marines and seven with the military police. With the marines I saw the world and I never regretted it, never. I went everywhere, all over Europe, including to what was Eastern Europe at the time. I went to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. I stayed in Aruba for one year and I liked the Caribbean stress-free way of life. I was hardly ever in Holland.

I liked the marines, the companionship, the friendships you can’t compare with any other friendship. The military police was not my thing. Everyone was working on their own careers, not me. I am a team player. I didn’t care about my career at all. I don’t take life seriously. Sometimes I had to give people a fine and very often I had to turn my head away because I had to laugh – not good – but I couldn’t see the seriousness of the situation. I can’t help it. Most of the time I see the sunny side of life

and if I get angry it’s only for three minutes. My mom always told me, ‘If somebody does bad to you, he’ll get it back – big time!’ I feel if I do good I’ll get it back and I’m never ill and I am really happy about that – seriously!

I was a vegetarian for 10 years before I joined the marines because I love animals. There is not one bad animal and if there is, it’s because people made it that way. Animals are innocent and so often they don’t deserve the life they’re living. Like the farm animals in Holland, the majority live in a cage their whole lives. What kind of a life is that? When I lived in Spain I had discussions with people all the time about the bull fights. I hate bull fights, but the fact is that these bulls live a very good life out in the fields with lots of cows before their last day comes up and that’s a really bad day. In Holland they get



“I hate bull fights, but the fact is that these bulls live a very good life out in the fields with lots of cows before their last day comes up and that’s a really bad day. ..”

a lousy life with a good ending. If I had to choose, I would go for the Spanish way.

Well, in the marines the training is really hard and if you’re different from the rest they give you a

tough time, so then I started eating meat again.”

He jumps up and starts playing the piano, an Elvis song, “You don’t know me.” He laughs “It helps me to stay focused. I have


ADHD; I cannot concentrate at all, so study and me is not a good combination. That’s why I’m not a diver; you have to study a real thick book and it begins with ships that float and coins that sink and then you’ve lost me already...

In 2002 I felt my mom needed me –we’re very close - and I quit the military and went to Spain where she lived to be near her. I worked in bars and restaurants; I was an entertainer in a hotel and I

was a tour guide. In Malaga it’s slow in winter time so then I traveled. During the winter of 2006 I went island hopping in the Caribbean. Bonaire was the first island and the last.

I was sitting at a restaurant and saw a real estate office across the street and just for fun I took a look at what was for sale and I saw the Swiss Chalet and had dinner there the same evening. Two days later I




(Continued on page 5)



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On The Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

bought the place. Ha! Ha! Quite impulsive! But then the money. I had a house in Spain and so my mom and her boyfriend started to make arrangements to sell the house while I stayed here working at the Old Inn restaurant and looking around on the island to see what kind of bar I was going to open. I had a vague idea but that was all. I knew it would be something with music because I'm a music lover, especially music from the 50s to the 80s, especially Elvis Presley. On January 14, 1973, there was an Elvis concert on TV. 'Aloha from Hawaii' was broadcast worldwide by satellite. I wasn't even four years old, but my mom let me stay up to watch it and from that moment on I was an Elvis fan. I don't know why I fell for him, but through my whole life he's always had the right music for all my moods, when a girl broke up with me or when I was happy – there was always an Elvis song for that moment. I like Springsteen, Garth Brooks and the Blues Brothers. I like almost every type of music, but I don't like Hip Hop or R & B."

Lee is unique, a great person, daring and lots of fun, but also sensitive and extremely kind; a wonderful man.

"Anyway – where were we? Let me get my guitar so I can sit quietly. Okay, I worked two months at the Old Inn and I really liked the German owners. Then I went to Spain, sold my house right on time,

because two months later the Spanish housing market collapsed." *He smiles.* "I always have that little bit of extra luck.

At the opening night of the bar I had a real nice couple in, Herman and Marga, and between then and now they helped me with everything. Also Polar helped me a lot in the beginning and they're still good to me because when the whole island ran out of Polar I always have it. I really appreciate it when people help me. Then Marlis (Sail and Canvas shop) told me, 'what the island needs is a place for people our age' – mine and hers. She said 'a place where the music is not too loud and where people can talk' and... it's working well! Thank you, Marlis!

The first year I lived in a former horse shed and then I built my apartment in what used to be the kitchen here, so now I live in my bar. Since October 2008, the business is doing well. I've got people coming for sports – soccer, American football, NASCAR, Formula 1 and baseball. Once a week I have a Salsa evening and after 10 o'clock at night the audience is completely different. I always say audience because I feel more of an entertainer than a barman. I am not the best bar, but my clients are the best! I play the guitar and the piano and I had saxophone lessons, but I'm not good at reading music. I play with my ears, Ha! Ha! You know what I mean! I love to sing, that's why I have karaoke as well, and in the future I want to make music. I just hope my audience



won't be too high maintenance because I'm not that good.

I'm always busy here, doing everything by myself, except I'm not a handyman so when things break down, and that happens all the time, I need people to fix it for me.

For my 40th birthday I gave myself an old motorcycle, a Yamaha Virago, to allow myself a midlife crisis. I don't drink or smoke. I don't surf or dive so my motorcycle is my hobby. Once a week I go around for an hour. I drive slowly, enjoying everything I see, enjoying the wind going through my hair – so, Mr. Henk Kamp, don't introduce the helmet!

I love my work and that's because of the clientele I'm getting. To me every person is special. I speak Dutch, German, Spanish, English and a little bit of French and Indonesian, so it's easy to communicate with all people and I always adjust my music to them. Many people come by themselves and I try to match them up so they have something to talk about together. When you're not in a relationship this island can be a lonely place.

Since I left the military I've lived my life like I have two more years to live. So, you have to work for food and shelter, but on the other

hand you have to enjoy because it might be over soon. Health, happiness and family are the most important thing and although I'm still a child myself, I would like to have children one day when I've found the right partner. For now, I've got some real good people I can count on, I like the island and its people, I love the sea...

I like it here." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Renate Van der Bijl's Art Exhibition



Governor Thodé and Renate

Renate Van der Bijl's art exhibitions are always exciting, as was the one on Friday, February 27, at the Plaza Hotel and Resort. Attending her art exhibits is like seeing Bonaire through a kaleidoscope. Her paintings capture the unique beauty of the island and its people. Renate's flamingos give one the feeling of actually seeing them in flight.

I was particularly impressed by her "Donkeys at Night." Renate captures their plaintive expressions, which is reminding of the fact that the donkeys are as much a part of Bonaire, as are "The Kibrahachas," also memorialized on canvas by Renate.

In Renate's paintings the colors are constantly changing from subdued to vivid, from day to night, from bright to brilliant! "The Sunset" is a dramatic painting of a young woman looking at a Bonairean sunset. I will recall those dynamic colors on canvas every time I see a sunset. I'm sure my impressions of Renate's work echo the sentiments of many other art lovers.

Renate's art exhibit was opened by our charismatic Governor Glenn Thodé. If you missed the opening, please feel free to view the paintings. Renate's paintings will grace the entrance



Kibrahacha Dancers by Renate v d Bijl

Photos by Thomas

halls of the Plaza Hotel until April 15. Take a look. ■ Czella Donaldson

Ronald Verhoeven's Art Exhibition



Ronald Verhoeven and Gezaghebber Glenn Thodé

Photo by Herman van Leeuwen

Artist Ronald Verhoeven's exhibit opened at Kas di Arte on March 1. Verhoeven, a resident of the island since 1998, was one of the artists instrumental in the establishment of the Kas di Arte. This is his fourth exhibition on Bonaire.

As art critic Anna van der Bergt reflects, "Verhoeven's paintings show, like his personality, glitter and glamour one time, and hesitance and silence the next. His pictorial language can be unruly and hard, but also searching and modest. In his studio a fierce battle goes on between the painter and his materials. Verhoeven usually paints two to four canvases at the same time. Classical music and various types of incense create an inspiring mood in which he faces his canvases like a tiger. 'I won't let my spirit be broken,' he says. 'Sometimes I really achieve a state of meditation, trance or feel a type of enlightenment, as if I can deal with anything.'"

The exhibit will be open until April 13, Monday-Friday, 10 am to 12 noon, 2-7 pm. ■ L.D.



Simadan by Ronald Verhoeven

Pet of the Week

Meet "Andre," this funny, fuzzy pup with such interesting green eyes. Andre was found at the Papa Cornes School where he was having a wonderful time playing with the children. Sadly, no one came to claim him, so for his own good he was brought to the Bonaire Animal Shelter where he could be cared for. He has settled in after having been checked by the vet, given his shots and worming, but he really does miss playing with children. Andre is about two and a half months old, has a cute and quizzical face and is just waiting for the right family to come along. It really would be perfect if the family had young children who could appreciate a playful pup like Andre.

You may see him and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. ■ L.D.



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BONAIREAN VOICES

FISHING PART IV

This is a continuation of the subject of fishing on Bonaire.

Getting to the fourth article on the subject of fishing in Bonaire most of you by now have reached the conclusion of what the problems are facing the fishermen of Bonaire and what the solutions should be.

But Mr. Pancratio "Pancho" Cicilia (62), who started fishing in 1969 with a small boat and today owns a bigger one, has a clever way to list all the factors about fishing.

He mentions four key problems, starting first with the way fishermen fish today. As he says, "Most fishermen today have changed their ways of fishing. In the past they did more deep water fishing, which was a hard work. They caught more Groupers, Dolphins, Wahoo, Rainbow Runners and Barracudas. They sought out where the fish were by putting marks out from land so they knew where certain fish were. Fishermen must know those marks to be able to fish. A lot of fishermen today



Siomara Albertus photo

Pancratio "Pancho" Cicilia

practice more superficial fishing, and what they catch is the Blue and White Marlin. They focus more on these pelagic fish that are driven by the current of the sea. These fishermen have to change their way of fishing and certainly they have to talk to more experienced fishermen.

A second problem is that microbiological creatures called planktons (food for fish) flow with the current of the Atlantic Ocean. Fish and bigger, sophisticated fishing boats are after these creatures. These boats fill big buckets with the planktons to serve as bait. They use this



Bonaire government photo

Newly appointed commissioner, Jefferey Levenstone speaks with a group of Bonaire's fishermen about their problems. His responsibilities include General and Judicial Affairs, State Structure, Economic and Labor Affairs, Tourism, Government Enterprises and Personnel He pledged to improve communications.

bait to fish in the open sea so they catch most of the fish. What is left comes into our waters, which is the very minimum, yes, the very minimum to supply our growing population which is the third problem.

The demand is big. Everybody wants fish and if our fishermen continue with the same methods as they using today to catch fish it won't help so much to fill the need. The fishermen need to install a fish finder or a depth sounding system, which is a modern system, in their boats. If the boat has a deck this can be a very adequate system.

And the fourth problem is that we don't have enough experienced fishermen in Bonaire. Some are doing this as a hobby. In the past we had a lot of fishermen who were fishing as their profession, but not today. We have just a few.

More than 15 years ago Constantino "Doei" Diaz and I got the idea of starting a fishermen's co-op, for several reasons. First is to change the technical part of fishing, to give the fishermen the chance to catch more fish, and in turn, have more income to help their families.

Secondly, the co-op can pay for their health and life insurance.

Thirdly, they can raise funds to be able to

send their children for advanced study in or outside Bonaire.

Fourth, they can get fishing equipment at a cheaper price. The experience that I had when I was in Saint Lucia was excellent for the fishermen. They get gasoline and gas oil at a reduced price.


Fifth, we can do that here too. My main goal is to establish a new board for this co-op. Call a meeting and have all the fishermen register for this co-op, starting with the owners of the fishing boats. Give the fishermen all the information they need so they are able to understand their rights and obligations."

So as you see, some fishermen are heading for action. We can sit around and wait for the fish to come to us. We have to learn to go where they are and get to them. Let's hope all who are in charge - the LVV, DROB and STINAPA-can give a helping hand to make this happen.

All of us deserve the best: the Bonairean fishermen who are doing the fishing and you and me who love to have it on our plate. ■ *Story & photo by Siomara E. Albertus*



Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.




Klinika Veterinario Bonaire

Animal Hospital Dierenkliniek

Dierenartsen team:
Drs. Arie Binksmā
Drs. Hans & Eddy Lambeek
Drs. Seib Fietsma
Drs. Ytzen v.d. Werf

Kaminda Lagun 24A, Tel 717-4255

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Naast het Dierenaisel



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DO YOU SUDOKU?

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. **Answer on page 9.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 2)
 Committee Curaçao (RCC), which was May 8th, two days before Mother's Day. A "Yes" means that Curaçao will accept financial supervision and Justice leadership from Holland in return for the Dutch takeover of the island's debts. "No" means no acceptance of the terms and Dutch lawmakers say no financial bailout either.

► **The Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the consumer price index for Bonaire rose sharply** towards the end of last year. It rose 2.4% in August 2008, higher from the previous June; in October 1.8% higher than in August; and in December 0.7% higher than in October. **Measured over the whole year, 2008 prices were 5.5% up from 2007.**

► **On March 15 the Bonaire Rotary Club will hold their Rotarally, annual road rally.** The start will be at 9 am at the Sport Hall on Kaya Amsterdam (next to Akkermans Toyota). Beginning at 2 pm there will be a BBQ at the finish at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon. Tickets are available from Rotary member Philip Joukes at 701-1100 for NAf 50 for the rally which includes two tickets for the BBQ.

► The Stichting Dierenbescherming (Bonaire Animal Welfare Foundation) **purchased two big dog traps** for which Rocargo sponsored the transportation and handling costs. This enables the Foundation to catch stray dogs that are unapproachable otherwise. If you know of animals that need to be picked up either for sterilization or because of ill health phone the Animal Shelter (717-4989). They hope to initiate a new beginning in getting the island's animal situation under better control. *Submitted by Louise Rood*

► The euro is getting weaker against the dollar. Good news as the BES islands start to convert from NAf to \$.

From:	US Dollar
To:	Euro
USD	1
EUR	0.80

► **Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) has launched an effort to promote, stimulate and facilitate small businesses on the island in cooperation with the Center for Small Business.** Priority will be given to owners who promote new products or technology. Business sectors include production, sales, service and

more. Loans up to NAf 50.000 are possible at a favorable 7½% interest. To learn more contact Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V. Department of Small Business (Tel.: 715-5579, 715-5532) or the Center for Small Business (Tel.: 717-2812, 717-2813).

► There is no evading the consequences of the economic hurricane that lashes countries all around the world, says MCB in its annual report. However, **during 2008, a year in which major US and European banks suffered massive losses, the MCB Group of banks booked a net profit of 144.85 million guilders after taxes** This was an increase of 36% compared to 2007, according to the bank's financial statement. These earnings are shared with the communities the bank serves. **MCB made 4,000 donations last year for a total amount of almost 3 million guilders.**

► Want to find out first-hand what Bonaire's restaurants offer at a bargain price? Then remember **Sunday, March 15** and be at Wilhelmina Park between 5 to 9 pm for the start of this season's **"Taste of Bonaire"** - Bonaire's restaurants offer sample dishes, NAf 7,50 each.

Correction: Riet Sealy, head of SEBIKI, wrote to correct us and say that while Minister Rouvoet and his representative visited Jong Bonaire, and the Maria Hoppner Foundation they did **not** visit SEBIKI as we reported in our story in the last issue "Help For Bonaire Youngsters." *The Reporter* apologizes for the error. ■ *G.L.D.*



Government Photos

The members of the Bonaire Island Council: Commissioners Tjin Asjoe, Kroon, Levenstone, Governor Thodé, Island Secretary Gonzalez, Commissioner Silberie

► The Bonaire ruling party, the UPB (green), announced a reshuffling of its current political office holders:

Central Government:

James Kroon and Ramonsito Booi resigned as members of the Antillean Parliament. Former commissioners Anthony Nicolaas and Onny Emerenciana will take their places in the Parliament.

The current State Secretary of Home Affairs, Hubert Martis, has been nominated to replace Elvis Tjin Asjoe as Minister of Economic Affairs. Martis' successor will be Noris Gomez, who was once state secretary.

Island Government:

The new commissioners replacing Burney El Hage, Anthony Nicolaas and Francisco 'Boy' Clarenda will be Elvis Tjin Asjoe (responsibilities: Public Health and Hygiene, Finance, Environment, Public Transport including the airport and harbor and Internal Affairs), Jefferey Levenstone, the former interim head of DEZA (responsibilities: General and Judicial Affairs, State Structure, Economic and Labor Affairs, Tourism, Government Enterprises and Personnel) and James Kroon (responsibilities: DROB, Social and Neighborhood Affairs, Sports, LVV, Protocol and Information Services). Maritza Silberie was the only current commissioner to stay on. She remains in charge of Education and Culture, Land Rights, Mail and Archives, Lottery and the Fire Department.

Ramonsito Booi, who is the UPB party leader, in explaining the reorganization, said, "Every period asks for a new approach. After the (last) elections we set up a team to execute the will of the people for a direct tie with the Netherlands. That process was completed with the Round Table Conference of December 15 and a new period has now started that requires changes in the executive positions."



► **Last Wednesday, The SBO had their annual motivation day at Lac.** The students played games and the winners were awarded a BBQ for 12 persons, at Bobbejans. Litanía Cicilia (wearing the red T-shirt) won the big prize with her group, Administration level 3 second class.



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Where's The Veg?



Warehouse Bonaire shelves last week

Last week the shoppers at Warehouse Bonaire Supermarket were greeted by signs apologizing for empty shelves and requesting customers to help by contacting their elected officials to correct the problem.

The problem is caused by cruise ships using the cargo piers on days the supply boat is scheduled to arrive from Curaçao to unload. Most of Bonaire's food and other products arrive by the RO/RO (Roll On/Roll Off shipping container) ships. When one or two of the mammoth cruise ships are in port, access to the pier is impossible. The supply chain to Bonaire is via ocean-going ships to Curaçao. Most arrive on Tuesday and/or Wednesday. There the containers are transferred to the RO/RO ship, usually the *Don Andres*, and sailed to Bonaire. Last week cruise ships were in port all day Thursday and Friday so no deliveries and empty shelves. The problem could be alleviated by docking and unloading in the evening, but the labor agreements do not permit this.

Many feel that cruise ship tourism benefits Bonaire economically, but the shop owners and most shoppers feel the island must solve its port access problem. The long supply chain from the US and Holland makes it difficult enough to keep markets stocked. Blocked ports create inconvenience for Bonaireans and hurt Bonaire's businessmen. ■

G.D.



Warehouse Bonaire's properly stocked vegetable department shelves

BonQuiz Test your knowledge of Bonaire

The period after 1867, when settlers were allowed to reside and build their humble homes on Bonaire, was one of trial and error, as you might imagine: building a home, deciding which style architecturally, how to build. But certain aspects were common during construction, for example, to build east and west with the sun and north and east to the wind. Take a look at any 'old' home on Bonaire and you will see, time and time again, that the sun will not be a nuisance through the windows on the east side nor when it sets on the western side, and that the wind will always blow freely through the doors and windows of a home from the north east. In other words, windows were placed on the eastern and western sides of the home, and the doors usually on the northern and southern sides of the house. Ovens were almost always built on the western side of the structure so that the heat and smoke could be carried off by the trade winds.



Question: Which product, used on the homes of well-to-do families, came to Bonaire as ballast? Find the answer on page 13.



BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com

Comments and suggestion are welcome. ■

Christie Dovale



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SOLUTION TO DO YOU SUDOKU?

Puzzle on page 7

637 548 912
859 271 436
214 396 785
175 469 823
398 752 164
426 813 579
581 634 297
762 985 341
943 127 658

2nd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk Fundraiser



Jong Bonaire photo

The second Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike on March 1 was a big success with 86 adults and 11 kids participating (61 walkers and 36 bikers).

The route covered 20 km. for the walkers and 37 for the riders.

The fastest adult participant by bike was Bradley Swanson in 1 hour and 40 minutes. Nazario Alberto (the North Salina Roadrunner) was the fastest one walking in 2 hours and 38 minutes. The fastest kid, Percy Prudencia, did the biking route in 2 hours and 40 minutes. Amber Lensink was the fastest walking kid in 3 hours and 15 minutes.

This year personnel of two companies joined the fundraiser- Warehouse Bonaire and Cargill Salt. Jong Bonaire hopes that next year more companies will follow this example.

Jong Bonaire would like to convey its sincere appreciation and gratitude for making the 2nd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike a very successful fundraising event. This success is thanks to our sponsors (Caribbean Homes, Millennium Inn, Richard's Restaurant, Bobbejans BBQ, Lions Den Restaurant, TIS-The Island Supplier, Larry's Bakery and the Tropical Flamingo supermarket), volunteers, parents, children of Jong Bonaire and all participants who were present at the 2nd Jong Bonaire Fun Walk.

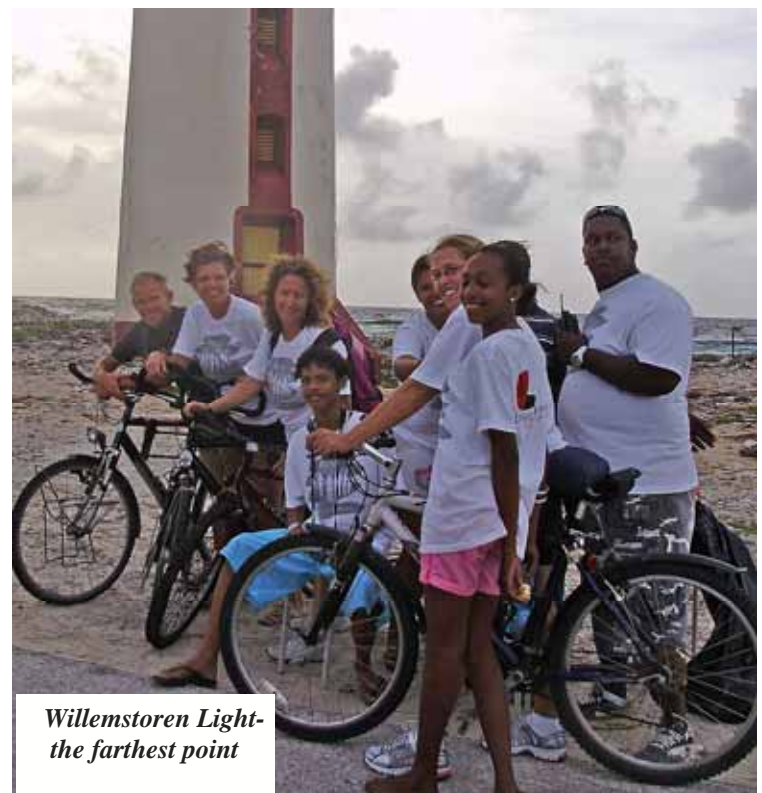
Visit the website for more pictures of the 2nd Fun Walk & Bike:

www.jongbonaire.org ■ Lisa Marchena



Jona, Judith (pictured above), Paco and other Jong Bonaire staff and members all contributed to the warm feeling that permeated the event.

The refreshment stations were many and served not only water but juice, oranges and watermelon. At the finish line at Jong Bonaire participants sat around discussing the event and enjoying their choice of fish or chicken salad. Be there next year.



Willemstoren Light- the farthest point



Jong Bonaire photo

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Guest Editorial

After a direct link between the Netherlands and the BES islands is established, these islands will have the status of Dutch communities. However, due to the 9,000 km geographic separation and completely different local conditions, a number of important laws, regulations, and finances (including the use of the US dollar rather than the euro), will not apply on Bonaire.

A parallel situation is the current status of overseas territories of France, another former colonial power in our region. We can see that these territories, unlike the BES islands, really do form an integral part of the French Republic. This is illustrated by the fact that the flights between these territories are considered as domestic flights and there is no immigration or customs control of the passengers.

I always wondered why, when traveling between the Dutch Caribbean islands, which are all parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for example between Aruba and Bonaire, you are subjected to control as a foreigner and tax has to be paid for imported goods.

Take for example, French Guiana, the only non-island overseas territory of France, located between Suriname and Brazil. Officially, the status of French Guiana as a colony ended in 1946 when it became, like other overseas departments, a region of France. The only political change has been that two elected councils – the General Council and the Regional Council – have administered local affairs since that time. The President of the Regional Council is the single representative of French Guiana

in the French senate and two deputies serve in the French National Assembly. As an integral part of France, French Guiana belongs to the European Union and the Euro is the official currency as in all other 25 regions of the country. Also the French social security is in place. A Prefect, always a Frenchman from the “metropole” (European France), is the representative of the French President. Unlike the Commissioner of the Queen of the Netherlands for the BES islands, the Prefect of French Guiana has also executive power, being head of the police and gendarmerie. He also wears a uniform.

Unlike the BES islands, French Guiana is a territory with enormous strategic value. The ideal location of the European space rocket launch site – only 5 degrees north of the Equator where the earth rotation is fastest – allows satellites to be placed in orbit with 15% less fuel than those launched from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

During my regular visits to French Guiana in connection with various infrastructural projects planned particularly by the space center and two ports of the country, I came in contact only with officials from the “metropole.” Practically my only contact with local people was with persons working in lower positions in my hotel, particularly waiters and room maids. A small local contractor I met during a visit to a construction site complained to me that the French pull the strings in all that is happening in the country and that the power of the both mentioned councils is very limited.

There is a growing movement towards changing the status of French Guiana. The dream of the local inhabitants has been to get a status like Puerto Rico has within the

Dutch and French Integration of Overseas Territories

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



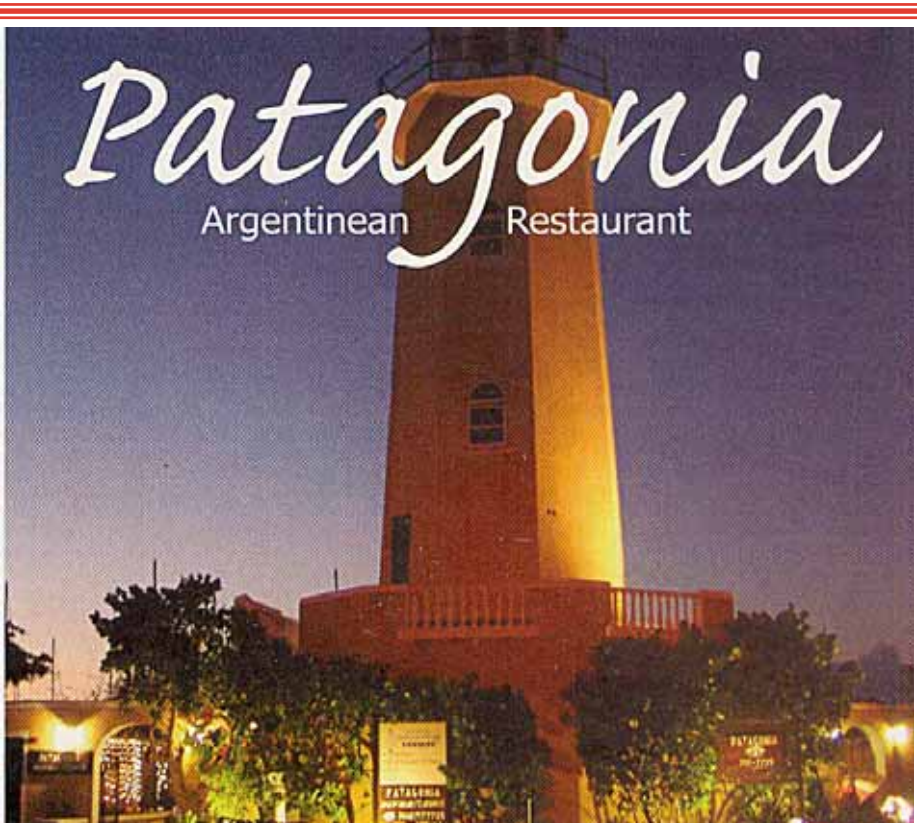
US. In Cayenne, the country’s capital, I once saw a street demonstration for change of the political status. (See the photo I took at that occasion). A green and yellow flag (the same colors as that of neighboring Brazil) with a red star was carried in front of the marching people. It was the only occasion when I saw this flag of autonomous French Guiana. Only French flags can be seen on government and other buildings like hotels.

Although the country is rich in natural resources, the unemployment rate is now about 30%, 10% more than on the French islands in the Caribbean. The main reason why there have been no street riots in French Guiana as there have been recently on Guadeloupe and Martinique, is that the local inhabitants are, unlike on those islands, composed of several different ethnic groups, and there is no organized pro-autonomy movement. Anyway, the fact is that the economic situation of French Guiana would certainly be still much worse

without the French presence, particularly without the Space Center because its spin-offs account for full 50% of the local economy. Although the pro-independence movement is relatively very weak, the first sight I got driving from the airport to Cayenne during my last visit was a blue sign along the road with an almost unreadable inscription FRANCE, covered with black paint. ■

Editorial & photo by Jiri Lausman

Jiri Lausman is a retired civil engineer, born in Prague, living as a Dutchman the last almost 40 years, 18 of them in Aruba. Before his retirement, he worked as the manager in Latin America and the Caribbean for a large Dutch construction company. He has a home on Bonaire.

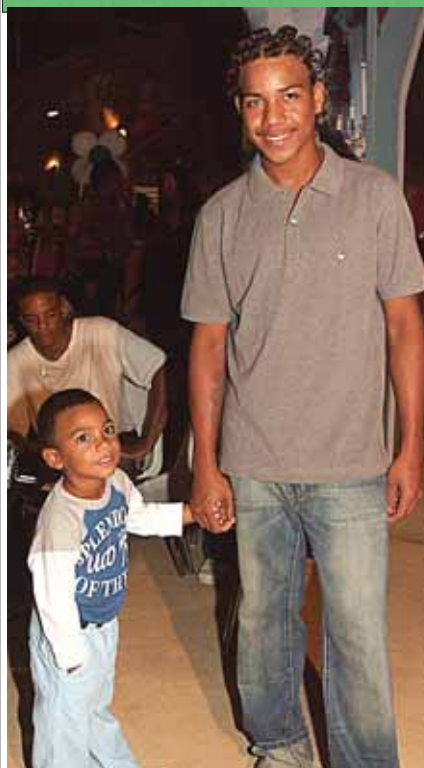


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New Owner at Capture Photo



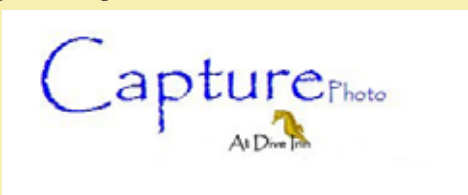
God's help is requested at the Grand Opening of Bonairean-owned Capture Photo

Capture Photo had a grand opening under its new owner at The Dive Inn last Saturday. The new owner is Nina Cicila (at right in the photo), who was a staff videographer for Capture Photo when it operated at the Divi Flamingo Resort.

Capture Photo opened in 2007 under the management of Kathy Lapsys. It was an affiliate of the SubAquatic Camera Repair Company in California owned and operated by Dan Blodget.

After operating for about a year the business was offered for sale. One day Cathy mentioned it to Nina, who was

very interested in becoming the new owner. With the help of RBTT Bank, she made it a reality.



Frederique Schreurs, who was Nina's colleague at Divi, is on the photo shop's staff along with Zsuzsanna Pusztai.

"Capture" will continue to offer a full line of underwater photography and videography services as well as photo instruction. The shop is located at The Dive Inn, an affiliate of Dive Friends, on the waterfront at downtown Chachacha Beach. Phone 717-6151 or 786-2067. The website is www.capturecaribbean.com. ■ G.D.

New Law Office

Bonaire's former Public Prosecutor, Ernst Wesselius, has joined the firm of David Kock Legal as its Bonaire attorney.

He recently joined the Kock firm which has been listed as lawyers permitted to defend the accused in criminal court. In addition he will practice civil law and offer full legal services

Offices are upstairs in the Les Galeries Mall, Suite L-20, towards the front of the building overlooking Kaya L.D. Gerharts. Telephone 717-8587, www.davidkock.com. ■ G.D.



Attorney Wesselius with secretary, Cora Held



David Kock (l.) with his associates Ronald Wix (Aruba), Noraine Pietersz (Curaçao) and Ernst Wesselius (Bonaire)

Future Chefs To Italy





On March 2, 10 youngsters from FORMA, accompanied by teachers and an interpreter, departed to continue their studies in Bologna, Italy. They will spend three weeks studying the cuisine of that country. Traveling were:

Nathaly Adamus, Stellinda Engelhart, Dianina Lambert, Gloria Lont, Rosa Marchena, Sertiva Mercera, Sharily Nicolaas, Joey v/d Ree, Migaila and Mirchonella Winklaar. Teachers were Ezzy Semeleer and Soraida Mensché. Miguel Saragoza, a previous student in the SBO program now studying to be a chef in Holland, went along to translate and provide an orientation. ■ *FORMA photo & press release*

Simply The Best

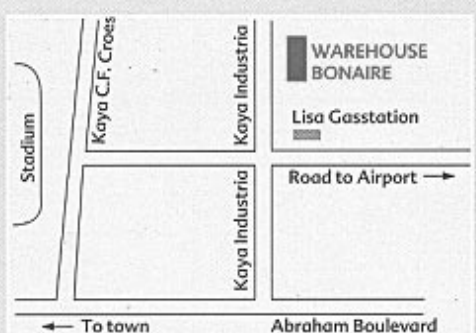
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FOR RENT Studio- excl utilities-end Feb. Also **2 bedroom apt-2nd floor**-excl utilities-end March
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I'm looking for land in Bonaire. I want to build my house. Alex Salazar Tel.: 707-7007

I am trying to find a Bonaire license plate for our wedding date: 11-23-05. I will pay \$10 for plate 1123 of any year or \$25 for 1123 if it is from 2005. We will be in Bonaire from Feb.28 til Mar. 14. Call 786-2845.

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Wanted – 2000 Toyota Wanted—Truck or Car—must be in great working condition. Call 786 3134

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BonQuiz
Question on Page 9
Answer

The clay tiles used as ballast on Dutch sailing ships were recycled to protect the roofs of Bonaire buildings ■



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Tokyo, Japan



Cynthia Sachs (left) in Tokyo, Japan, with *The Bonaire Reporter*. Cynthia is the daughter of Pat and Rob Sachs, homeowners for 20 years at Lighthouse Beach Resort. ■

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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
3-13	2:51	1.7FT.	11:24	1.1FT.	16:36	1.2FT.	17:33	1.2FT.	91
3-14	3:49	1.7FT.	13:02	1.0FT.					83
3-15	4:43	1.8FT.	14:15	0.9FT.					72
3-16	5:42	1.8FT.	15:06	0.8FT.					61
3-17	6:30	1.8FT.	15:50	0.8FT.					49
3-18	7:21	1.8FT.	16:22	0.8FT.					39
3-19	8:01	1.8FT.	16:51	0.8FT.					32
3-20	8:39	1.8FT.	17:21	0.9FT.					31
3-21	9:22	1.8FT.	17:42	0.9FT.					36
3-22	1:49	1.2FT.	9:57	1.7FT.	17:56	1.0FT.	23:38	1.3FT.	44
3-23	3:35	1.2FT.	10:33	1.6FT.	18:02	1.0FT.	23:38	1.3FT.	55
3-24	4:46	1.2FT.	11:19	1.6FT.	17:59	1.1FT.	23:54	1.4FT.	65
3-25	0:06	1.5FT.	6:06	1.2FT.	12:00	1.5FT.	17:46	1.1FT.	76
3-26	0:38	1.6FT.	7:36	1.1FT.	12:52	1.3FT.	17:27	1.2FT.	84
3-27	1:13	1.7FT.	9:30	1.1FT.	14:07	1.2FT.	16:58	1.1FT.	90

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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DANGEROUS ROAD

Dear Editor,
 We have just returned from several delightful weeks on Bonaire and look forward to our return. However, something needs to be done about the speeding and reckless drivers on E.G.G Blvd. in Belnem. During our short visit, we saw a terrible accident near Donkey Beach and also learned that the beloved pet at Hotel Roomer was fatally run down. Just getting in our car or putting scuba tanks in the bed of a truck along the narrow road could be dangerous. One misstep or a failure to be exceedingly vigilant could result in being hit by a speeding car or a huge construction vehicle driving down the middle of E.G.G. Blvd.
 Elevated traffic slowing bumps or ramps similar to those at the airport need to be installed near the Bellafonte Condos and another near the Hotels BelMar and Roomer. Speeding citations should be issued when appropriate. I understand a petition was circulated and presented to the government asking for such improvements, but no action has been taken.
 It would be pity to wait until someone is injured, or worse killed, along E.G.G. Blvd. before taking action.

Jinger Wallace

BAD BEHAVIOR

Dear Editor:
 We love to visit (24 years) the island but are growing concerned about what we saw Saturday, Feb 14. A group of young males were at Sunset Beach throwing beer bottles at coconut trees, trying to dislodge the fruit.
 The bottles were going everywhere and many broke into pieces. What a terrible way to treat these natural resources! These children need someone as parents, school etc. to redirect their activities to something positive and learn to respect the island.
 Maybe it's time for a bottle deposit!

Janet and Matt



The Two-Tone Smoke Colored BMW R90S of Mister Aranguren

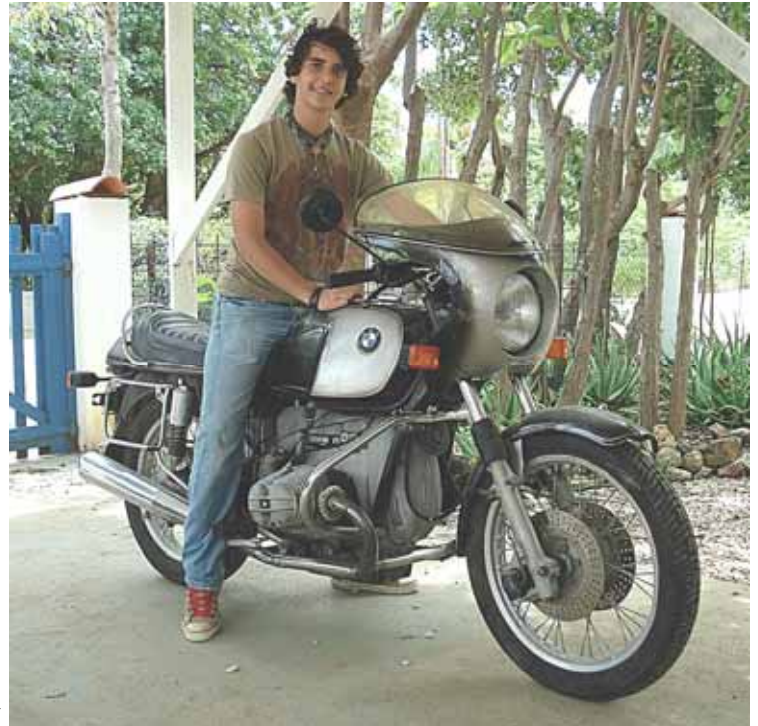
The 42nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Sabadeco -
Those days, back in the 70s of the past century, Benito lived in Caracas, Venezuela. One of his friends owned a real motorcycle, made in West-Germany: a BMW 750 cc four stroke two cylinder. Benito really liked his friend's motorcycle. The bike was nicely designed. The engine ran smooth and quiet, the motorcycle was very comfortable and low on maintenance because of the cardan (driveshaft) and the use of the best materials. In the opinion of Benito and his friend this type of motorcycle was also very safe because of the two horizontal mounted cylinders protecting the driver in case of an accident. So it did not take much time for Benito to get convinced by his friend: in 1974 Benito bought his first and brand new 750 cc BMW motorcycle from the official distributor in Caracas.
 Founded in 1916 as an aircraft engine factory (the BMW logo represents a propeller of an airplane), the Bayerische Motoren Werke entered the motorcycle trade in 1921 with a proprietary engine, a 493 cc flat twin cylinder side valve model. In 1923 their first complete own built motorcycle was shown in Paris: The BMW R32.
 BMW have never (until very recently) built a motorcycle without a shaft drive, with a separate gearbox or with a twin cylinder engine not transversely mounted. The integrity of the 1923 design is proved by the fact that it is still the basis of one of the world's most prestigious and best selling makes. More than 80 years later Benito's present motorcycle, a BMW R90S, was also built with a shaft drive and a gearbox fitted to the boxer twin engine.
 "Back in 1974," Benito explains, "things were completely different. Motorcycling was not that popular yet. There was not that much traffic on the roads and riding a motorcycle was relatively safe. My friend and I really liked our BMWs. We both owned a 750 cc boxer twin and we used the bike for everyday transport and for fun. After work, on the weekends and during the holidays we drove with our

bikes around Caracas, through the mountains, to Colonia Tovar and to the sea. Our bikes were really a pleasure to drive and they proved to be very safe and reliable. Although I really liked my 750 cc horizontal twin I traded it in at the Caracas distributor for a brand new BMW R900S in 1976. Biking got more popular in the second part of the 70s. This motorcycle was even more comfortable and more powerful. I think I bought the bike for some \$4,500. Nowadays a new BMW model goes for about \$18,000 to \$20,000.
 This R90S is still completely original. Of course I changed the tires a few times and a new battery was installed, but all the other parts of the bike are completely original. Once I had my BMW resprayed to the original specifications. That is all!" And indeed, Benito's R900S looks very much original. Nobody messed with the bolts and nuts. The exhaust pipes and mufflers are completely original, the Dellorto carburetors are original, the electric wires are ok, the service manuals are there, and under the buddy seat we even find the original tools in a pouch!
 Benito continues, "The sensation of riding a motorcycle is really exhilarating! The feeling of freedom, the smell of the machine combined with the smells of nature, the power of the boxer engine, controlled by your right hand, the magnificent sound produced by the nicely designed exhaust system. You cannot

compare riding a motorcycle to driving a car. Even a sports car does not come close! The design of the bike makes it relatively safe. Some four or five times in the last 34 years I fell with the bike or I had a small accident. Always the opposite mounted cylinders protected my legs. I never even had a scratch!"
 In 1995 Benito and his family came to the island of Bonaire. They brought the motorcycle with them. Now the bike is about 34 years old but it is still as reliable as ever. The BMW R90S is a much sought after collectors' item now. The value of a model in an A-condition is still about \$4,500. The price you had to pay for a new example in 1976. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



Benito's son, Derek, sitting on his father's BMW motorcycle.



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Where's Our Mail?

Not having received a bill from Telbo for a while, or any other mail to speak of, I decided to investigate the inner workings of Bonaire's postal system.

I spoke first with the Supervisor for the Bonaire Post Office and learned that our local operation comes under the purview of the government in Curaçao. That's who decides whether more employees are needed, if equipment needs updating, and whether other changes or improvements that our Bonaire post office requests are valid. Judging from what I observed later on my visit it became apparent that requests to Curaçao for upgrades are falling on deaf ears. However, let me state right here that that's my personal opinion based on what I saw, not anything that was said by any postal employees. Having said that, let's see what's happening in the world of Bonaire's postal service.

As you know, buying a stamp on Bonaire requires patience and time (*editor's note: as it is in other parts of the world*). You wait a while for your turn in line, perhaps wondering how old you'll be when you finally get to purchase that stamp, so it's quite apparent that one need to be met ASAP is the hiring of another cashier to work the front line. And if you live in Hato, Sabadeco, or Belnem another urgent need is the addition of one more mail route driver. The small number of drivers is probably the cause of your wondering why no one is writing to you – even Telbo has forgotten you and doesn't send a bill. You wonder why this is and point your hostile finger at the post office.

Let me assuage that hostility by relating to you the following. I was taken on a 'behind the scenes' tour of the inner workings of that little yellow building. Upon entering the work area I felt as though I had been absorbed into a time warp and was looking at how a post office worked in 1932. The first thing I saw was a mountain



of envelopes surrounded by stacks of packages. Three people were buried under these overwhelming piles, carefully sorting envelopes and putting them in their proper pigeonholes. By hand! Each box making up these piles contained about 1,000 pieces of mail to be sorted. Here's the process: read the name and address on the envelope and put it in the correct slot; read the name and address on the envelope and put it in the correct slot. Over and over again, *ad nauseum*. Can anyone say, "Let's mechanize"? It had been hoped that when the Canadian Post Office took over running our postal system that good things would happen. However the feedback I got was, "They took our money and gave us nothing." Now the management is back in the hands of Curaçao. It's hoped that when we become a municipality of Holland that the 'M' word will mean home delivery and more.

Now let's take a look at another part of our postal system: E-Zone. For NAf 125 per year (senior citizens NAf 75) you can subscribe to this service and get your mail and packages faster, and some say cheaper. A US address in Miami is made available to subscribers where your mail and packages can be sent. Your things are then shipped direct from Miami to Bonaire via Curaçao and you collect them at the post office. The three times a week shipments seem to be keeping customers happy. However, in order to make the post office happy, another person is needed to work in this area as E-Zone business is booming and mail is stacking up.

Now we get to the part that is probably most interesting to you. 'Where in the world is my mail?' you ask. Well here's the sad story. The island is divided into four delivery zones. The Kralendijk zone is the biggest with thousands of pieces of mail to be

delivered each day. The next zone is a combination of Sabadeco, Hato, and Belnem, big population wise and geographically far apart. Part 3 is Rincon and part 4 is everybody else. Bear in mind that each driver must come to the post office every morning at 8 am and determine which mail goes on their route; then they must organize it and load it into their cars. You will note that I say load the mail into their cars, not big blue mail trucks. Replenishing their mail stock several times a day cuts down tremendously on available delivery time as you can fit only so much mail in a car at one time. Nevertheless by 10 am they're on their way across the island delivering until 3 or 4 in the afternoon. Sounds easy? Well, it's not. It's a slow, time consuming process using antiquated methods. Personally, under the circumstances, I think we're lucky to get any mail at all. My hat is off to the men and women at the P.O. who are doing a difficult job. Having seen the jobs they face each day, I promise that I will no longer think unpleasant thoughts about Bonaire mail delivery.

To briefly sum things up, at this time the Postal Chief in Curaçao is being asked to approve one more person to work in E-Zone, one more person on the delivery route, and one more person in administration to work as a cashier. A representative is supposed to come from Curaçao to Bonaire to evaluate these needs. When? 'Soon,' they say. Will we get what we need? Who knows. In the meantime we shall muddle along the best we can but with a new appreciation of the inside story of how our post office works. If you need your mail sooner than it can be delivered you can always be your own personal mail deliverer and go collect your mail at the post office. And while you're there be sure to thank everyone for a job well done. ■

Dabney Lassiter

For rates and other postal information go to <http://www.npostna.com/>



Bubbles from the Biologist



Did You Know...

In 1979, human experimental studies were begun to assess the use of coral as a possible alternative in human bone grafts¹. These studies showed that the biological make up of coral allowed real bone to grow over the graft and eventually heal the bone. After the coral is put through a thorough purification process it can be used for orthopedic surgery, maxillo-cranio-facial surgery, and neurosurgery. ■ *Nathan Landry*

1. Citing: J. L. Patat and G. Guillemain. Natural coral used as a replacement biomaterial in bone grafts. 1989. NCBI. 34(3):221-5.

Landry is studying Tropical Marine Ecology at CIEE Research Station Bonaire. He is a marine biology major at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Art Show Renate van der Bijl "Moments in Time," at The Plaza Resort. The show will continue until April 13. See story on page 6.

Art Show Ronald Verhoeven at Kas di Arte. Exhibit will continue until April 3. Monday-Friday 10 am-12 noon, 2 to 7 pm. See story on page 6.

Sunday, March 15— "Taste of Bonaire" - Bonaire's restaurants offer sample dishes, NAf 7,50 each. At Wilhelmina Park, 5 to 9 pm

Friday, March 20—Vernal Equinox. See page 19

Sunday, March 22- Windsurf from Bonaire to Curaçao to benefit Erwin Muller. Story in the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Rescheduled from March 8.

Wednesday, March 25, lecture at CIEE by Roy R. Lewis III (Certified Environmental Professional, National Association of Environmental Professionals Professional Wetland Scientist, Society of Wetland Scientists Certified Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America) Subject: "Mangrove and Seagrass Management and Restoration." Kaya Gob. Debrot 26, 7 pm

Saturday, March 28 - Earth Hour - WWF movement for climate change awareness. Turn off your lights from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. See story in Feb. 27 issue of *The Reporter*

Saturday, March 28, Sunday, March 29—Carib Fine Art Sale Exhibition of Caribbean paintings, metal screens & wooden sculptures. Kaya Fidelia #1, Antriol (behind Jehova Church) . Saturday, 6 to 8 pm; Sunday 1-5 pm.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Days, usually 10 am to 2 pm

Wed., Mar. 11—Caribbean Princess

Fri., Mar. 13—Enchantment of the Seas

Mon., Mar. 16—Emerald Princess

Tues., Mar. 17—Sea Princess

Wed., Mar. 18—Summit

Fri., Mar. 20—Ocean Village

Mon. Mar. 23—Aida Aura

Wed., Mar. 25—Caribbean Princess

Fri., Mar. 27—Enchantment of the Seas

REGULAR EVENTS

- 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

- **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. **Big Marché first Saturday of the Month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table. (NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- **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.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Fridays

- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday— **Creature Feature**— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday—**Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation**, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

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

Tuesday-- **Bonaire Land and Ocean** presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff, 7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

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.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Krioyo 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 at 7pm; every Sunday at 5pm. Phone: 786-7699.

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

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

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7.30 pm— All levels, NAf2,50. Call Joop 717-5903 for venue.

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. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

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

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: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5

to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

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.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

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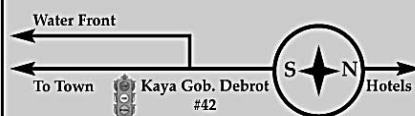
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Locally Grown Vegetables Soon a Reality



Soon residents and visitors of Bonaire will be enjoying vegetables with fewer frequent flier miles but a lot more flavor. Vine ripened tomatoes, eggplant, lettuce, herbs and other produce grown only a few kilometers from the table and picked just hours before consumption. M-m-m-m-m. Can't you just taste it!

Bon Bini Farm, a new hydroponic agricultural project on the island, has been in test operation since August 2008 and will begin scale-up efforts starting in June. Within the next year or so they will be producing bushels of these fresh vegetables and herbs for local restaurants and supermarkets.

Currently located on a kunuku in Antriol, the pilot farm has been testing over 10 varieties of tomatoes, and four types of cucumbers, peppers and basil to find which ones are best for the Bonaire environment.

Pilot Farm

There are 23 hydroponic 'stackers' and three large tubs for vegetables on a 40 by 40 foot (12.2m X 12.2m) plot at the pilot farm. Each stacker holds about 20 plants that are watered four times a day by a computer-controlled drip system. The current system uses only about 1.5 cubic meters of water a month for the 350 plants that are growing.

Jan Jaap van Almenkerk, operations manager for the project, says he now has a very good Bonaire basil and two types of tomato that seem to perform well here. He is also having good success with a seedless cucumber, two types of peppers, aru-

gula and finally has flowers on his broccoli. They are also growing an herb called stevia, that can be used by diabetics as a sweetener. At any one time there might be 20 to 25 different products growing at the farm.

Andrea Magni, chef-owner at Capriccio Restaurant, is enthusiastic about the locally grown food. "You can smell the flavor of a vine ripened tomato and it makes a big difference," says Chef Andrea. Most imported tomatoes are bred for transport and not taste. They are picked when they are hard and green and then sprayed with a hormone to allow for ripening. In the USA it is estimated that most foods travel about 1,500 miles from farm to table.

Bon Bini Farm will take all those miles away and allow for ripening time on the vine. They plan to stagger the planting of crops so that there will be ripe tomatoes every day of the year.

"The basil is also perfect," says Chef Andrea. "It's not too minty and not too strong. A nice Italian flavor." He would know since he comes from Milano.

Capriccio and another local restaurant have been testing the products from Bon Bini Farm since November and providing feedback to help determine which varieties to pursue. "What is so good is their attention to quality and their knowledge," says Chef Andrea. "They won't sell a product if it is not up to their high standards," he added.

Agricultural Engineer

Almenkerk, who is a tropical agricultural engineer from the University of Deventer, is just what Bonaire needs considering the dry, salty, desert environment. He says it's the most extreme location he has had to deal with. Before Bonaire, he worked 10 years in Surinam and Nicaragua on agricultural projects, and before that he spent 15 years on rural projects in Holland.

"For Bonaire I have to lower



Bonaire's garden of the future can supply some of our fresh food needs

the pH of the water from 8.4 to 6.3 and then must cool the water before it reaches the plants," says Almenkerk. "We also control the nitrogen, calcium, phosphate, potassium and 15 micro elements."

But this is just the nutrition for the plants, which grow on stands produced by Hydro Stacker in Florida. He also has to deal with ants, birds, lizards, high salty wind and the sun. Rain can even be a problem since, when it does fall, it can be very strong and overwhelm the hydroponic system.

Almenkerk specialized in plant diseases and control during his studies and aims for a 'bio-organic' farm. One of his tricks for dealing with the ants on Bonaire is to spread a line of baking flour around the edge of the growing area. A wall and roof made of sun shading and a solid ground cover help deal with many of the bird and lizard problems, but a rain-capturing roof is in the plan for the new location. For white fly and aphids he will use an organic spray with soap to keep the Bonaire produce safe.

Expanded Operation

The expanded hydroponics farm will be located near LVV where they hope to use rainwater most of the year and will power the equipment with a wind generator. The farm will cover two acres (0.8 Ha) of land and will be 10 times the size of the pilot farm, starting with 250 Hydro Stackers feeding 4,000 plants. Over the next five years they expect to grow to about 1,000 stacks, with 15,000 to 20,000 plants in production.

There is also the possibility of adding fruit trees around the farm, once the vegetable project is underway. By 2014 Bon Bini Farm expects to supply about 30% of Bonaire's produce. Vegetables like onions and carrots will not be grown locally because of the climate.

Naturally, this size farm will require labor and the plan is to train locals for the work. Almen-



Close-up view of the stackers

kerk is already training two young men who have shown an interest in the farm, but more will be needed as they scale up the production, which will help boost the local economy. One study of food production shows that every dollar spent with a local food supplier is worth \$2.50 for the community.

Bon Bini Farm is owned by Ron and Marti Newlon, from Alabama, who are long time visitors to Bonaire. On one trip to the island they were visiting LVV to discuss the potential of hydroponic farming and met Almenkerk there. Bon Bini Farm emerged from that accidental meeting.

Marti Newlon is a master gardener and Ron is an aeronautical

engineer who specializes in control system designs. Both Newlons are scuba divers and have a high respect for the Bonaire environment. Since the plants are grown in a mixture of Perlite and Vermiculite and in planters on poles, the nutrients are taken up by the plants and don't enter into the ground. This stacker system also prevents soil borne diseases. Soon Bonaire will be trading in its well-traveled vegetables for locally grown products and enjoying the luxury of fresh home-grown flavor.

For more information: Almenkerk@gmail.com.

■ Story & Photos by Jane Townsend



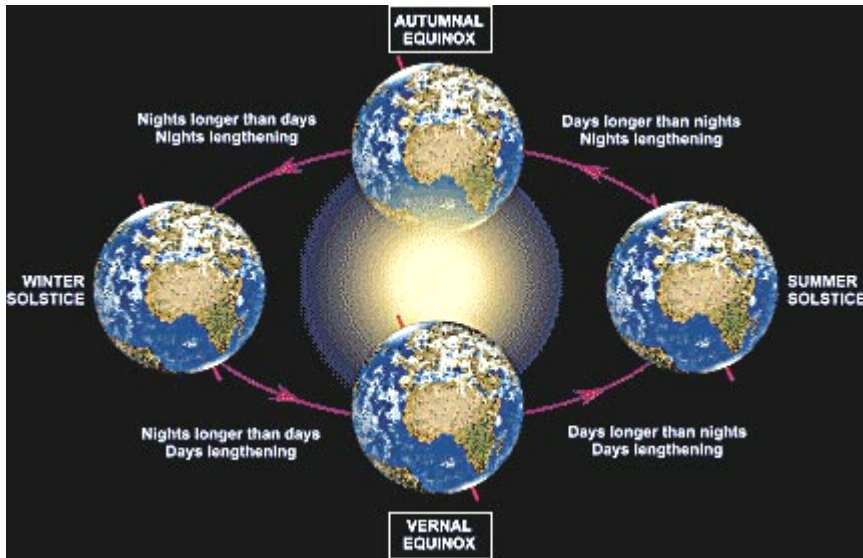
Jan Jaap with some of the support equipment mentioned in the story



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Happy First Day Of Spring!



Next week on Friday, March 20, at exactly 7:44 am Sky Park Time the Sun will lie smack dab on the Celestial Equator, which marks the very first moment of the beginning of **spring for the northern hemisphere** and the first moment of **autumn for the southern hemisphere**, so happy spring to you northerners and happy autumn to you southerners.

Now if someone asked you why is spring called spring? Would you be able to give them a good answer? Well, simply put, we use the word spring to mark the beginning of the new season because it is an abbreviation for the phrases 'spring of the leaf' and 'spring of the year'. Now 'spring of the leaf' is pretty obvious because at this time of the year in the northern hemisphere leaves literally do spring up out of branches, and grass and flowers spring up out of the ground. And that's why we call spring, spring. But do you know why we also call this time the spring of the year? Well, before 1752 in England and America the new year officially began when spring began on March 25th. Or to put it quite simply the New Year sprang up at the same time the leaves and the grass did. In fact all American colonists wished each other Happy New Year and Happy Spring on the same day on March 25th until English parliament declared that beginning in 1752 the new year would no longer begin in March but would be celebrated on January 1st, a tradition begun by the Romans in 153 B.C.

But, lest we forget, the first day of spring is strictly speaking an astronomical event which marks one of the two days when our Sun is smack dab on the Celestial Equator, the other date being the first day of autumn. You see these are the only two days of the year when the Sun rises exactly due east and sets due west. It was just one of several astronomical signposts our ancient ancestors used to help them determine the seasons, which was very important for their planting schedules. Day and night are about equal in length all over the world during the equinoxes, because the Sun is positioned above the Equator. Today the first day of spring barely gets a passing mention in the media, except, of course, in *The Reporter*.

Starting early next week if you go to work around sunrise on a due east highway, like the coast to coast Sorobon road, Kaya van Epps, notice how closely the Sun rises to the center of the road. Then on Friday, the first day of spring, watch it rise directly over the yellow line. Plus vice versa, watch the Sun set directly over the yellow line which means you better get out your sun glasses or put your sun visors down. Happy first day of spring, and happy old New Year. ■ *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For March 2009

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You have to believe in yourself and your talents. You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Try not to get involved in other people's problems. Be prepared to step into the limelight if you wish to promote your ambitions. Children may be less than honest with you. So smile! Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge. Rest and relaxation will be more favorable than you think. You can have a great time if you go out with the one you love. You need to keep the peace and you will have to bend in order to do so. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. Talk to employers in order to promote your career objectives. Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts. Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may enjoy doing something musical for entertainment. Don't bother retaliating, just walk away. You will be highly entertaining when in contact with your lover. You can make excellent career moves if you are open to the opportunities that exist. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will find yourself tied to the phone. Your energy will be high. You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your social skills with people may be more than just helpful. Your diplomatic nature will help you in straightening out unsavory situations. Cultural activities will prove to be quite enlightening for everyone. Don't let those close to you get under your skin. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Look to a close friend for advice. You will be in the doghouse if you are being cocky. Take time to talk things over. Travel for business or pleasure. Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business with friends or relatives. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone. You may be fortunate while traveling. Your pursuits may end up being fruitless. Things will be emotional with your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Exercise programs will be effective. You may find it impossible to get the rest you require. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be emotional about money matters. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Control your anger. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. ■



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