

**It's Still
FREE**

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The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Sailing School Kids
Carrying On A Tradition
page 20

Laura DeSalvo photo



Immediate action is needed to improve Bonaire's Flamingo Airport runway, warned Dutch Minister of Traffic and Water Management (V&W) Camiel Eurlings last week. If nothing is done, the runway won't comply with international safety norms within one to two years, stated Eurlings in response to questions posed in the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber relating to the 2010 budget. €8.7 million had been reserved for the project in 2010.

► **A small team was on island last week to explore possibilities for a new flavor of Bonaire tourism – personal recovery.** It's well known that the climate and pace of Bonaire is beneficial to people recovering from certain illnesses. Organizers would offer a "package" consisting of KLM business class airfare, resort accommodations and specialized medical care. The program would be offered by the Dutch personal recovery specialists U-Center.

► **Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said a Dutch salvage company will be called in to recover the body of the heroic pilot Robert Mansell and the Divi Divi aircraft** that recently sank southwest of Klein Bonaire. The cause of the accident is to be investigated as well when the aircraft is raised. The salvage company and cost of the operation haven't been revealed. Following the failure of one engine Captain Mansell had to ditch his twin engine Britten-Norman Islander commuter plane just west of Klein Bonaire. All nine passengers escaped unhurt and were quickly rescued, but Mansell was knocked unconscious and went to the bottom with the airplane when the pas-

sengers were unable to release his safety harness. The sea bottom is between 150 and 200 meters deep in that area and Dutch naval ships in the Caribbean don't have the capability to salvage at that depth. The American navy research ship *Henson* offered its help but permission from US authorities had not been received yet, according to acting Bonaire Lt. Governor Peter Silberie.

► **The identity of the pilot of the airplane that blew up in the air west of Bonaire has been identified** as 26 year-old Juan Carlos Saldana. A large quantity of cocaine and another body of an older man, yet unidentified, were found amidst the wreckage. Saldana was originally from Bogotá, Colombia but had been living in Venezuela.

► **Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will be relieved of the costs involved in disaster management, crisis management and medical care after they have been integrated into the Netherlands.** This policy was defined in the "Explanatory Memorandum" attached to the BES Security Act which was sent to the Dutch Lower House last week.

In the event that one of the islands needs disaster assistance the Netherlands is ready to handle the cost and to offer any necessary physical assistance in the form of manpower and material.

► According to Cynthia Ortega-Martijn, a Christian Union member of the Dutch lower chamber, **the Netherlands should negotiate with Bonaire again if the population rejects the integration process already underway.** Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld of Kingdom Relations and a few Lower Chamber-members said that they would not re-negotiate. There is only one option left and that is independence. However, the Netherlands cannot decide on this based on the UN-regulations, says Ortega-Martijn.

► **Every year, around 1,000 Antillean students arrive in the**

A Bonaire Reporter Question

Times are tough for Caribbean tourism. The economic recovery, especially in the US, has been slow and airlines are cutting back flights. Budgets for promotion are tight.

So how can the agencies responsible for attracting visitors to their island approach the problem? These days Internet advertising and social networks complement the traditional methods.

One technique that Bonaire has excelled in is to get "free" publicity in the press and on the Internet from travel writers and news reporters. The TCB's partners in the Americas and Europe are experts at making that happen.

Choosing what to publicize is tricky though. Obviously, everyone wants to report the good news.

But what about the not so good news? Crime, environmental damage, political shenanigans, or illnesses all affect both the island's people and their important guests, the tourists.

The question to our readers:

What is the most effective way to promote Bonaire?

1. Present **only good news**
2. Present **all news**
3. Present **good news and only the not-so-good-news that has been "okayed" by island tourism authorities**

We ask our readers, both on island and around the world, to sit down right after reading this and give us your opinion. Please.

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Netherlands to study. In order to look into possible ways of improving study program information for Antillean students, staff at the Dutch information websites www.studychoice.nl and www.studiekeuze123.nl.

Dutch officials visited the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba from November 10-18 to talk to prospective students, deans and study advisers in order to identify problem areas and needs. Antillean students who come to the Netherlands to follow an advanced program are faced with a major transition. They must relocate to the Netherlands, live a long way away from their home and come to grips with a different culture.

► **The government of Aruba**



rescinded its decision that foreign workers had to leave the island after three years. The new Eman Cabinet has put an end to the so-called "Swiss model," in which expatriates could only work on Aruba for three years.

This implies that immigrants could apply for Dutch nationality after a stay of five years.

The number of illegal foreigners in Aruba is estimated to be 5,000-8,000.

► **The Dutch Government is considering hiring "flying doctors" to provide medical assistance in the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba** explained Dutch Minister of Public Health, Well-being and Sports,

(Continued on page 9)

Table of Contents

This Week's Stories

Bonaire Reporter Question	2
Help Seniors Celebrate	2
Kwartmakers & Counterparts (Immigration, Naturalization)	3
Windsurfing Scandinavia	6
Bonaire Referendum Survey	8
Second Thoughts-Booi	8
Referendum Preview?	8
Bonaire Ambassadors (Valenteijn)	8
Insurance for 60+	9
RSC Donates Computers to JB	10
CIEE Mangrove Study	10
Eli Dell Opens	11
2009 Job Market	11
Letters to the Editor— Cruise ship privileges, Sun lotion damage, Kudos to Reporter	12
10 Years-Green Label	15
BES Tax Plan	17
Ludo Nicolaas Honored	17
Sailing Kids	20
Tree Planting	20

Weekly Features

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Brigitte & Wilfried Kersting)	4
Bonairean Voices (Public Library)	7
Sudoku Puzzle	7
Bon Quiz #18 - (Chapel)	7
Body Talk - Climate	12
Picture Yourself (Cruising-Jamaica)	13
Classifieds	13
Tide Table	13
Reporter Masthead	14
What's Happening	14
Pet of the Week (Petunia)	15
Bubbles (Flamingo Tongues)	15
Shopping & Service Guides	16
BonQuiz Answer	17
Sudoku Answer	17
Bonaire On Wheels (Wheel Me On)	18
Sky Park (December Dates)	19
Café Astrology (Astrology)	19

How to contact us

Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@bonairenews.com

The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com
Box 407, Bonaire,
Neth. Antilles.
Phone 790-8988
Phone 790-6518 / 786-6518
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Help Bonaire's Seniors Celebrate

A special treat every year for senior citizens groups is an end of the year dinner where they can all get together to socialize and enjoy a delicious meal. This year 115 elderly from the senior citizen activity centers from Rincon, Antriol, North Salina and from Kai Minima will be dining at the **Sunset Grill Restaurant** on December 9. And everyone will get a gift from the **Bonaire Gift Shop**. Although the organizers got a very good deal from Kirk Gosden at Sunset Grill, a little more money is needed to make this evening come true. **You can help brighten our elders' holiday season with a donation.** An easy way is to drop it off at Mike Gaynor's **Chat n' Browse** at the roundabout near Sunset Beach. **For more information call Delno Tromp at 09-693-1407 or 717-8334.**



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Kwartiermakers and Counterparts

The First of a Series About Cooperation Towards Takeover

The Immigration and Naturalization Organization

For some time now people have been working behind the scenes on improvements and projects for the period after the transition date of 10-10-10, when Bonaire may become a public body (bijzondere gemeente) within the Netherlands. In several areas of policy, local government and local organizations are working together with the people from the Regional Service Centre (RSC). In the coming months The Bonaire Reporter will describe the activities of the Dutch Ministry Representatives in the RSC and their Bonairean counterparts as they work together so that, at the planned "transition time of 10-10-10," local people, Bonaireans, will handle the tasks of that department.

For the first report we will describe how the work of the Immigration and Naturalization Organization (IND) is progressing.

George Mensché, Head of Bonaire's Burgerzaken (Civil Registry) and Bonaire's Organization of Admission, the Toelatingsorganisatie, (which local people often refer to just as Bevolking) and Jan de Jong, a Kwartiermaker from the RSC, are working together on the new **Immigration and Naturalization Organization (IND)** for Bonaire. The IND has the following tasks:

- The admission of foreigners
- The settlement of requests for naturalization
- The extension of visas
- Providing legal protections and enforcing proper procedures.

Simplifying the Tasks - From 13 counters to just one

With the motto, "Transformation Before Transition," considerable changes have already been made to the foreigners' admission process on Bonaire. The goal is to have good functioning organizations with qualified workers at the transition date of 10-10-10.

One of the major changes is the reduction of the numerous "counters" the applicant has to visit to obtain the necessary permits to work and live here. In the past there were 13 different counters. Now there's just one.

The new Organization of Admission, begun in July 2009, is working with the new Foreigner Management System (FMS) software. The system has been developed with the input of the employees of all the organizations involved.

Further changes due to the new organization are:

- The present Admission Statues will be applied more strictly.
- The employees will carry more responsibilities, for instance in the near future qualified employees can sign a permit themselves. Currently this is a task of the Gezaghebber (Lt. Governor).
- More responsibilities require more knowledge and experience. A lot of emphasis is being put into education and training "on the job."
- Due to the FMS, a good digital data base is building.



Jan de Jong started the job of Kwartiermaker Immigration and Naturalization in June 2009.

In the Netherlands Jan worked with the Police Department for 20 years. After that he joined IND where he also worked for nearly 20 years. In several management jobs he built his knowledge and experience in this area. "The job here on Bonaire fits me perfectly. I find it a real challenge to contribute to the new IND organization, to work together and to develop things in a creative way. We hope the organization ends up with a lot of satisfied customers."

George Mensché has been working with the governmental organization on Bonaire for 12 years. He worked at Legal Affairs for four years. After that, he worked at the Bureau of the Island Secretary for three years, to continue his career at the post of Head Burgerzaken. He's been doing that job for five years. "For me, the challenge of co-building this new organization came right on time. I love to help the organization and the employees to grow. Change is never easy for people, but change also means progression. If people are given more responsibilities, they achieve more and they gain more fun out of the job."

- Tasks will become work place independent after the introduction of the FMS on Saba and Statia. Back office employees will be able to support each other when necessary, even if off island.

- For special issues Bonaire can rely on IND in the Netherlands for support.

- All governmental organizations on Bonaire that are involved meet regularly to exchange information and share problems or questions.

After the transition date the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands becomes responsible for the IND on Bonaire (currently the *(Continued at the bottom of column 2 on page 9)*)



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On the Island Since... 2007 *Brigitte and Wilfried Kersting*

"In 1986 my husband and I went on a cruise with the whole family: my mother, my father - who was already severely ill at the time - and our son, Michael. We visited Aruba and Curaçao for the first time. In 1989 we spent the Christmas holidays with Michael and baby boy Tobias on Curaçao and still we had not seen Bonaire.

When my mother and I went for a vacation to Curaçao again in 1991 we came to Bonaire for one day. We took a guided tour and when the bus stopped at this certain spot in Sabadeco there was this house under construction and my mother said to me, 'This is the place where I want to live and stay until the end of my life,' and within three days she bought the house.

When we made the cruise in 1986 my parents had been looking for a place in the Caribbean for my mom to live, as my father knew that his days were numbered. My mother had arthritis and rheumatism in a very bad way - she was practically in a wheel-

chair - but here she felt so much better. The language was also an important issue because people of her generation didn't speak English or French. She only spoke German and Dutch.

From the time my mother bought the house we've spent every holiday on Bonaire and our eldest son, Michael, would go to Papa Cornes school. Both our children loved being here and at a very young age they already spoke English and Dutch. When my mother passed away in 1999, our boys inherited her house and we inherited the friendships that she had with Bonairean, Colombian and Dutch people.

Although my mother had passed away, we kept on coming to Bonaire three to four times a year and we'd stay at her house. Both my husband and I were still working in Germany. Wilfried had his own practice as an internist and cardiologist and I had my practice as a homeopathic doctor, specializing in pain management. In 1991 Wilfried was very ill and in 2004 he suffered a cardiac arrest and

then he stopped working in 2005. I had an accident that same year and in 2007 I had to give up my practice.

Our greatest wish was to come and live here. We felt this island was our destiny. So we came and lived in my mother's house during the time our own house was under construction. It seemed like a long vacation. When she moved here my mother had brought a lot of our furniture, so we felt at home. But... the most beautiful thing was that my mother's friends and their children became our friends. To us," she smiles a big smile and raises her hands, "that's the most wonderful thing about Bonaire: the intense relationship we have with the people here. In the Bonairean and Colombian community there's this feeling of togetherness, of unity and these people made us part of it. We never felt like tourists when my mother was still alive. We were my mother's children and therefore we belonged to the community. They made us part of their families. It's something very



The Kerstings and their dog, Tino

"It's sad to say, but other islands have lost a great deal of their charm because of over population and too much construction. Bonaire is still good, but they have to keep an eye on the developments and make sure we won't get stuck with ruins of buildings..."

special and intense.

Now Bonaire is our home and when we go to Germany it's for

vacation. We still have a house there because we want to spend

(Continued on page 5)

			
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)
time with our sons too. Michael just finished Hotel Management and Tobias is studying Tourism and Event Management. Both of them prefer to come here instead of our going to visit them there.

In 1993 Wilfried learned Papiamentu and when people speak slowly he understands it well, but when they go fast he doesn't get a word. I can read Papiamentu, but I don't speak it. For three years we've been learning Spanish at the Venezuelan Institute. Latin we know as we both studied it for seven years. But the Spanish grammar at this age is quite hard! Still, I feel we have to make the effort as so many people here come from Latin countries and we want to be able to communicate with them.

Bonaire gave us so much that we felt we wanted to give something back. We decided to volunteer at the animal shelter and now we're at the cruise ship market selling T-shirts, but... we also give information about the island to the tourists. People do have a lot of questions so Wilfried and I participated in the course TCB organized in Papiamentu, 'Turismo; nos bida, nos future,' and both of us got our diploma. There's going to be a follow up and we'll do that one too.

We are very enthusiastic about the island and we love to pass the information on to the tourists. This year many cruise ship passengers are from Latin countries and it's great to see how they react when you address them in their own language. Tourists feel more accepted when you try to speak their language and they don't expect you to be perfect. It's the effort that counts! The atmosphere at the market is great and the one thing all the tourists are talking about is how clean the island is. Thanks to SELIBON, a terrific company." *Brigitte and Wilfried are very socially involved people. Bright as they are, they see things from a good perspective. They are optimistic with a lot of energy and because of the way they've traveled the world, they have a broad view, which makes them an asset to the island.*

"We enjoy the beauty of Bonaire every day. It's sad to say, but other islands have lost a great deal of their charm because of over population and too much construction. Bonaire is still good, but they have to keep an eye on the developments and make sure we won't get stuck with ruins of buildings. We've seen that too often in Portugal and Spain.

The other day I read a letter to the editor in *The Reporter* about keeping Sunset Beach for the local people and we totally agreed with the writer. Sunset Beach used to be the place where we spent the weekends; the children learned how to swim there, they learned how to snorkel and it was the hangout where everybody would meet - Bonaireans, Americans and the Dutch - it was a social event, a mixture of cultures and all social levels, lots of fun!

Sunset Beach should be given back to the local people. If we want to get something good out of this economic crisis - this is the opportunity. We could have a place where everyone - young and old and of all backgrounds and cultures - could spend the weekend together. Some time ago Wilfried saw the famous old poster at the tax office - a picture of Sunset Beach and the text, 'Unhurried - Unspoiled - Unforgettable.' We could have that back. There won't be another chance - now is the time!

There's also something else that I feel

we need here: a place where people can announce all the local events that are taking place on the island, in three languages. Let's say there could be a special announcement board at all the big supermarkets where everybody comes and each and everyone who's organizing something - a little league tournament, a fundraising, a beauty contest, a cake baking contest - whatever little local thing - could be hung there for everyone to know, to go and see and to participate and learn about the culture of this island, so that all of us will be involved in what's going on in our community. There's way more to Bonaire than diving!

Life on Bonaire is just different. It's slower and we enjoy intensely meeting people of all cultures. That wouldn't be possible in Germany at our age. Also, we're walking, snorkeling and swimming and there are a lot of fitness places where older people can go too. Both of us need regular check-ups by specialists and we found highly qualified specialists - the same level as in Germany - on Curaçao, so for special medical treatment we don't have to go back to Germany. When you're 60+ in Europe there isn't much going on anymore socially as friends don't like to drive at night and prefer to stay at home. Here we live outside most of the day and



Brigitte and Wilfried Kersting

at night there are always several happy hours. In Germany we used to go to concerts and theaters, but here there are various events taking place on a regular basis too. We went to the Jazz Festival for four nights in a row and we met everybody there.

We can grow old here - we definitely want to. Wilfried and I have traveled ex-

tensively - all our lives - we've always been interested in meeting other cultures. We are globe trotters - we still are - but Bonaire has become the center of our life." ■



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Windsurfing Tour - 2009 *Windsurfing Scandinavia*

The European Season.... Continued from last issue

Ruben Petrisie is a professional windsurfer from Bonaire who represents the island in European windsurfing competitions. His professionalism, good humor and talents make him a great ambassador for our island. In this issue he reports on the Scandinavian windsurfing scene.

Sweden

Including waiting time at Istanbul and Prague, Turkey to Stockholm was about 18 hours, where a driver picked me up. We drove for another three hours through Sweden all the way to Motala Varamon.

The next morning I headed to the event site, a 10-minute walk along the sandy shore line of Lake Varamon. After a Swedish breakfast I was scheduled to join a slalom race, with winds blowing around 5 knots.

The weather was so nice and warm for a Swedish summer that I ignored a wetsuit and went Kona racing in my shorts. I took second place in the light technical old school slalom style race, advancing to the next round and advanced through the whole afternoon into the finals.

Before the finals there was a super long distance race. I thought that this was going to be a real long distance to be cruising on a Kona in gear number one. So I wasn't sure if I wanted to join, but one of the kids suggested we go together and share a tandem board (a board for dual sailing). I thought that's not so bad, we can chit chat along the way, and it's always good to experience new things.



Beach start



Tandem windsurfing with the local youngsters

After being in the first seven at mark number one we struggled with tacking both sails on one board at the same time while staying upwind so we lost a couple of spots. After the long distance I took it easy as I was a bit tired. It got colder and there was even less wind for the slalom finals.

In the late afternoon I went to prepare the sounds and my music for a special presentation of the events sound track. The crowd enjoyed it so much I had to repeat it three times. The coolest thing is when everyone sang along between some parts of the track. I was invited by the organizer to stay a bit longer, and I did.

The next day the wind blew so strong that I struggled with the Kona equipment. I couldn't even finish the race with a 9.0 on a Kona long board. That same afternoon Rossi and I did a freestyle show for the crowds.

The next days were pretty mellow; we had good windsurf sessions and talked about interesting business subjects. It was

super fun hanging out with America's eldest windsurfer, Bruce Matlack.

Denmark

It was super-duper cool this time and there was more sunshine than expected. I actually thought I'd brought some with me.

I spent most of my days in Skødstrup, a village with a farm like feeling.

I hit the road trips with Denmark's most talented female freestyler, Xenia Kessler, who showed me some of the spots Denmark offers. We visited Ebeltoft, close to a port where a huge ferry from Copenhagen brings in some nice sets of waves.

At Alrø we were out with a few local freestylers until late afternoon. This spot offers flat to choppy conditions with gusty winds.

Hvide Sande in Ringkøbing fjord offers shore side winds with choppy to flat conditions perfect for freestyle sessions and free riders. You may spot a few schools on the coast line of this lake and, mmm,

don't be surprised to see a few Germans out there who drive all the way up to enjoy this windsurf spot or fjord as well.

Hanstholm / Klitmøller / The Cold Hawaii?

From the east to the west coast of Jutland it takes about two and a half hours by car. Conditions were good enough to score some wave rides while Germans and Danish sailors shared the spot and the parking lot.

I had some studio time with windsurfer, deejay and producer, Anders Ponsaing. We worked on a fun club track that will be released on my demo this fall.

A big thanks to the Kesslers who made my stay as comfortable as possible

Thanks for reading. Go explore. ■

Ruben 'BNG' Petrisie, NB50



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These days reading programs seem to be promoted everywhere you turn. Television, radio, ads in the newspapers and magazines tell us how essential reading is to the development of the mind. Reading is the key to success. Parents are encouraged to help their children read and even they themselves are being motivated to read.

In the last column we talked about nutrition in schools. And while giving the teachers a chance to read the article and make their comments we're going to talk about what else can help the increase the brain's capacity. Have you got the answer yet? Of course, it's **READING**.

I visited our public library, wondering if there is enough material to feed our reading community. It reminds me of the time I was a high school junior and we used the library as our second home. It was fun to do your homework and be able to pick all sorts of reading materials for your projects. Well, what I can say today is that our library is in need of improvement. I had an interview with Library Interim Manager, Mrs. Sharon Bol (38), about the library's situation.

"The library is working hard to create more activities for children and youngsters," Sharon said. "We send our personnel out to work in the field to help improve the reading habits of our community. Our main focus is kids between the ages of 6-12. We feel that this group needs our support the most. It does not mean that we forget about the other groups in our community.

In the last few months the Library has started the following programs:

Lesu Ku Mi, Promé Mi Drumi (Read to me before I go to sleep) is a monthly book reading for kids. Prominent Bonaireans like Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé, Bòi Antoin and Mama Smile have each read their favorite story to an eager audience. In this way the Library also tries to stimulate parents to read to their children.

Free Library cards: The Rotary Club Bonaire sponsored free library cards for about 1,864 elementary school children and 971 SGB high school students. Over 100 enthusiastic children visit the Library every month. As of this moment the Library has welcomed almost 900 new members. Youngsters have until the end of November 2009 to receive their free library card.

Dictation Papiamentu: This event took place on November 18th. There were a total of 36 participants, and seven schools were represented by students.

Kinderboekenweek (Children's Book Week): The festival opened on November 15th. It was a festive occasion with performances by a magician, actors and dance groups and several authors told stories. During the week all the schools paid a visit to the Library and listened to very talented, local storytellers like Ilviena Carolina, Tante Poppy, Denise de Jongh, Morrela Wanner and Gaby Mercera.

Internet café: Recently the Library received three computers and a printer. The computers can be used free of charge.



Sharon Bol photo

Almost all children love to have someone read to them

The Library wants to offer services to the whole community. That is why employees of the library also visit the elderly every month to read stories to them. A group from the Literacy program (FORMA) receives special attention and visits the Library every month. In November there will be a photo contest for SGB students. The Library also plans to organize book readings or presentations with poets and writers for adults.

The Library has a long wish list: a brand new building, an adequate facility where all the reading material is safe from moisture, sand and dust; a system that is fully computerized. A public library should offer our Bonairean community all kinds of services. Rooms to study and books for our junior and senior high school-children are lacking right now. More new books for adults and children need to be purchased. Another big wish is a Library bus that can visit all the different neighborhoods, to bring the books closer to where the people are. As you can tell there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, but we are on the right track."

In every country reading is found to be important. In reading and writing lies the foundation of every civilization. If we want a new and improved library, we have to fight for it. If you have ideas on how to improve the Library, your ideas are more than welcome.

The Library uses the saying: "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Yes, reading is mental nutrition.

Our Nutrition in School article will continue in the next issue. ■ *Siomara Albertus.*

For her next column Siomara will interview teachers on the island for their opinions on the Nutrition program.

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



DO YOU SUDOKU?

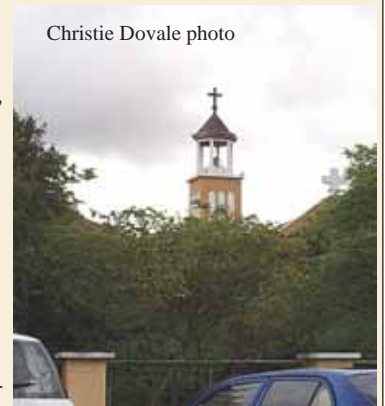
To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 17.** Supplied by *Molly Bartikoski-Kearney*

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

BonQuiz #18

In 1856 several Dutch orders of nuns, religious "sisters," established a school in Bonaire. Over the years the St. Francis Convent was renovated and currently it's being used as office space and examining rooms for some of the island's physicians.

Christie Dovale photo



The building is located between the St. James Medical School, near the Catholic church in Playa, and Cultimara supermarket, located on the north side of Kaya L.D. Gerharts.

Over the years more than 30 girls from Bonaire have joined Catholic religious orders. Since the convent closed all of the Dutch nuns returned to their homeland in the Netherlands, and the Bonairean sisters now live within the community.

Behind the convent is a gem of a tiny chapel that most people hardly notice as they whisk by, to and from town. But during the week, if you stroll into the gardens, you may find the chapel open, and if not I know that one of the nurses will open it up for you to take a peek. The chapel was renovated with donations.

Q) What was the name of the order of Dutch nuns who worshipped in the chapel?

Answer on page 17

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: christiedovale@hotmail.com.



Bonaire Referendum Preview?

If Bonaire's second Referendum had been held last week the Dutch ministry workers might be packing their bags to return to Holland.

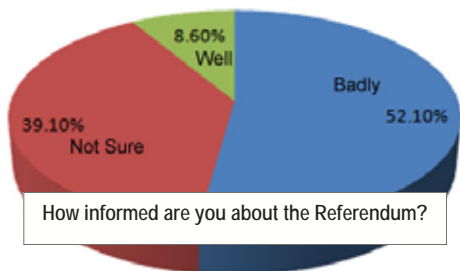
According to the outcome of a random survey of 365 people on Bonaire, carried out by CURISES students (Curaçao Institute for Social and Economic Studies of the University of the Netherlands Antilles), about restructuring of the Dutch Kingdom, more than 65% of the island's population would choose a "free association" with the Netherlands instead of the "integration" currently underway.

The key question asked - "Should the direct relationship with the Netherlands be free association instead of integration?" - is similar to the proposed question the Referendum Committee had presented in its report earlier this month. If Bonaireans vote the same way in the March 2010 Referendum, it would trash much of the work now underway by the Dutch Government and create an uncertain future for the island.

The students released the outcome of their survey last week which they said has a sample error of 4.9%. The Bonaire Government did not participate in the setup or influence the poll.

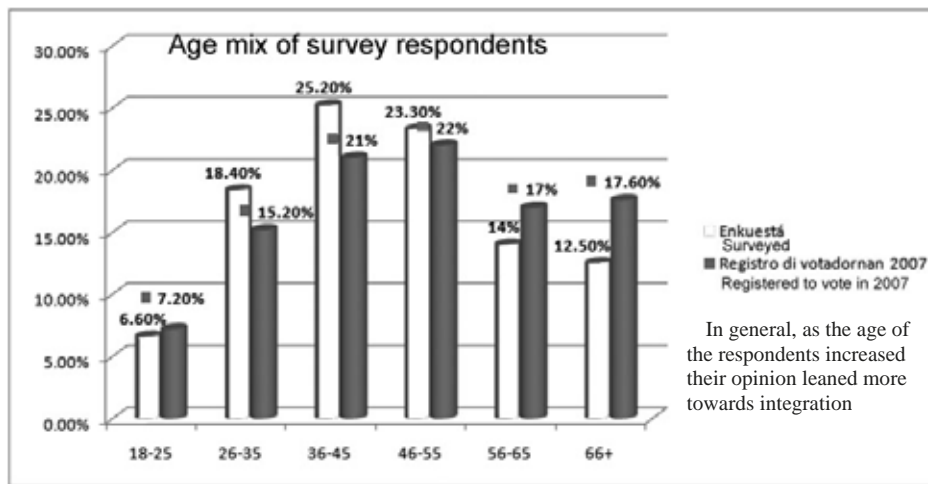
THE SURVEY

Critics and survey assessment professionals applauded the initiative but found fault with the approach of the students' survey. They felt the results were inappropriately portrayed as showing a clear level



of support for the current government's positions.

The survey revealed that over 91% of the respondents were either badly in-



formed (*Malu*) or more or less informed (*Mas o ménos*). If this is the case, then they say the answers to the survey's three key questions become meaningless:

1. *I agree with the current content of the 'laso directo' with Holland* -- since 9 of 10 respondents have little or no idea what this means, the value of the answer becomes suspect.
2. *What the UPB Government negotiated with Holland does not seem to be good for Bonaire.* - The same logic applies here. If you do not know what the issues are, how can you know if you are for or against them?
3. *'Laso direkto' with Holland must be 'free association'* - The term 'free association' is a fuzzy concept that has been discussed but never clearly defined in the case of Bonaire. There are several examples of 'free association' arrangements in the world, but each is unique and the result of extensive negotiation between the governments involved.

IMPLICATION OF THE RESULTS

It is clear that both the integration side and the free association side have to educate the public. The free association supporters have been most vocal, are politically organized and making use of the Internet to present their viewpoint. The Dutch say they must remain clear of the debate because of UN rules. Beseet by allegations of misconduct and a changing leadership the UPB (green party) has not

vigorously defended the integration position it promoted for several years.

WAS THE SURVEY WELL DONE?

Not according to research professional who reviewed the results. According to them several of the questions violated one of the basic rules of surveying in that they telegraphed the answer expected.

For example:

- *I believe that Holland should have everything to say about Bonaire.*

This option has never been on the table and no one seems to have even presented it. The question almost demands a 'disagree' response.

A fairer question might have been: I believe that Holland should have a larger say in Bonaire affairs in return for the Dutch government paying off our debt, investing in our infrastructure and providing additional services for our community

- *If Bonaire becomes a municipality of Holland then pensions, support payments etc. MUST BE THE SAME as in Holland.*

This is another self-answering question. What is missing is the information relating to higher taxes, higher cost for car registration, higher OB and other costs that would be required to pay for this equality.

A fairer question might have been: If Bonaire becomes a municipality there should be total equality with Holland in every regard, this would mean equal pen-

sions, support payments, taxes, OB, including laws dealing with marijuana, abortion, euthanasia etc. To be fair the question has to give both the cost and the benefit.

Dutch influence is increasing on Bonaire



- *The influence of Holland is becoming greater in Bonaire.* Of course it is. What is the implication of this? Good or bad? There is no way to tell.

The present Dutch government position is that Bonaire can have a referendum but if the citizenry does not accept what has already been negotiated, Holland will not cooperate any longer and will stop paying for various projects.

UNBALANCE

Questions about the unanimous agreement in 2006 of the Island Council with becoming a municipality, the fact of a signed agreement to continue along this path, and the amount of money being sent by Holland were not presented in the survey. That creates an unbalance in any conclusions reached. How many of the respondents would continue to send money to a store that changed the product after the order was placed and if the store never shipped the product?

THE US DOLLAR AS LOCAL CURRENCY

In a related question the survey found that most people support the conversion from the Antilles Guilder to the US Dollar: 55.5% were in favor, 25.2% opposed and 19.6% don't care.

The Referendum debate is just beginning. *The Reporter* will be listening. ■ G.D.

Second Thoughts

At a press lunch on Sunday, November 15, Senator Ramonito Booi announced he was stepping down as the UPB party leader and retiring from political activism to spend more time at his Warahama kunuku. Surrounded by close family members, party associates and a large press contingent from several islands, he appeared close to tears at times as he related the history of the party and the role he, his supporters and even his adversaries played over the years.

The hearty local food and a variety of beverages created a relaxed atmosphere and rapport with the press. There was even a tour of the *kunuku's* animal pens and shade houses.

But less than a week later Senator Booi changed his mind. Last Saturday night, November 21, at a gathering at party headquarters in Sabana, he said that "he resigned to the will of God and the party" and will stay at the helm of the UPB. With the slogan, "Now, UPB. More than ever," he agreed to lead his party's campaign for the parliamentary elections on January 22, 2010. ■ G.D.



Kunukero Booi

New Bonaire Ambassadors Christ and Anneke Valenteijn



TCB recently awarded Christ and Anneke Vlenteijn of Holland Silver Ambassador Medals in honor of their 16 consecutive years of visits to Bonaire. Happily it coincided with their 45th

wedding anniversary. They were awarded their medals and certificates by TCB's Helen Thodé. Congratulations, new Ambassadors! ■ *Press release*

Flotsam & Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Ab Klink.

Klink is currently analyzing the potential to curb the cost of treating BES island patients abroad by flying in doctors. He assured better medical provisions and an improved health care system for the three islands that should become part of the Netherlands as "public entities" in 2010.

► **Five of the 13 custodians of the Bonaire jail left for the Netherlands for two weeks.** Rene Borg Linden, Ditmar Palm, Silberie Humphrey, Roy Bureson and Arlene Dorothea, as interns, will check out the jails in Lelystad and Almere. The internship is intended to show "what else can be accomplished in the Bonaire jail." The interns will study safety, daily routine, hygiene and the intake process of inmates. Their study will include interviewing prisoners and intake procedures.

► **The Dutch economy grew by 0.4% in the third quarter of this year,** compared with the previous quarter, meaning the country is now officially out of recession. The new figures from Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) revealed the first period of economic growth in a year. On an annual basis, however, the economy contracted by 3.7%. "According to normal definitions, the Netherlands is now out of recession," the CBS said in a press statement.

► **Environmental NGOs have been hit hard by the economic downturn** and this has had an impact on their effectiveness. In a recent survey of 800 US-based non-profits, 75% reported feeling the effects of the downturn, with more than half already experiencing significant cuts in funding from both government and private foundation sources.

► **According to the figures being reported to this newspaper the number of lionfish being reported just about doubles every seven days.** Elsmarie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA, agrees that more and more Lionfish are being identified in the waters of Bonaire. STINAPA considers the fish a danger to the indigenous fish of Bonaire.

Divers have reported the sightings and the Marine Park has gone into a state of alert. Beukenboom says, "Lionfish are everywhere. They have appeared in Los Roques (islands 200 miles to the east) and along Venezuela's Falcon state coast." If swimmers see a Lionfish they should report it to STINAPA headquarters at 717-8444. They should not attempt to capture it themselves.

► **Fine original art is available on Bonaire.** Check out page 18 for a glimpse of Ronald Verhoven's work or go to ronald-verhoven@msn.com

► **The Second Hamburger BBQ competition will be on December 5 at Flamingo TV on Kaya Korona, from 3pm onwards.**



Anyone is allowed to participate, but space is limited to 20 competitors. Registration forms are available at the offices of Flamingo TV. Those wanting more information can call 511-4216

The idea is for the contest to be a family event. There will be games for kids and even a mini-cake decorating contest for those aged 4-10, all for FREE! Sinterklaas

► **The Social Insurance Bank (SVB) has introduced insurance for people over 60.** Up until now SVB insurance was cut off when someone became 60 years-old. Their only alternative then was expensive private insurance or a "PP, poor persons" card.

According to Health Minister Omayra Leeflang, the announcement of the new package on October 1 is "the redemption of sins against the elderly." PP recipients will be included.

To be covered by SVB, a 60-plus person must apply at SVB to validate his/her rights. He/she must sign an authorization form allowing SVB to submit his/her information to the Inspectorate of Taxes for verification. A previously insured worker, turning 60, will remain insured after applying.

SVB is obliged to accept all pensioners, regardless of their taxable income and no matter the nature of their illness. Under the premium base, taxable income has to be no more than two years old. The pensioner will authorize SVB to gather information from the Inspectorate of Taxes, where his/her identity number and/or CRIB-number is recorded for verification.

The insured will pay a premium of 10.4% up to a limit of NAf 478 per month. For example, if a person's income were NAf 2.000 per month, he/she would pay 10.4% of that amount or NAf 208 per month. If the person is receiving an AOV pension, on application, he/she can authorize SVB to withhold the premium for sickness insurance from his or her old age pension. For a retired couple each must pay his or her own premium.

A 60-pluser who does not receive a pension or if his/her pension is not sufficient is obligated to pay his/her own premium. Visit the SVB for full information,

will also be making a special stop.

In addition, there will be local bands providing great music.

► **There will be a great end of the year Christmas concert** on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 pm at the Cacique Hall, Plaza Resort Bonaire. The Classical Music Board of Bonaire will present *Musicians from Bonaire for Bonaire*.

The program will include light European, American and Antillean classical music; sing-alongs and more! Plus an after party.

Performances:

Krusa Musika : Linda Anthony, soprano; Joke Dekkers, alto; Hans Faassen, piano and bass; Erik van Silfhout, tenor and violin. With Special guests: Joke Dekkers, alto, and Hans van der Veen, trumpet.

The End of the Year Choir with 35 singers. A combined effort from Ars Kantandi and Kreator, conductor Frans Lauxen; piano Sue Felix

Radjwant Gonesh, piano solo with Antillean dances.

The first presentation in the Dutch Antilles of a **Portatif**, a wooden pipe organ, played by Frans Lauxen.

Tutti Frutti the pearls of Rincon, with classical ballads and dances from Bonaire well as an after party with Tutti Frutti.

Tickets are only NAf 25 at Books and Toys, Flamingo Bookstore (Kaya Grandi)

Kwartiermakers and Counterparts (Continued from page 3)

Minister of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles is responsible).

The organization of the new IND is being set up by George Mensché, Jan de Jong and others on Bonaire and in the Netherlands. Both men agree on the quality of the cooperation. "We are really working well together. Good cooperation doesn't mean that we always agree on everything. It does mean that we are willing to listen to each other, that there is trust between us and that we are working together on the solutions of problems. The basis is mutual respect and that's the way it should be!"

Story and photo by Inge Vos

Inge Vos is a recent arrival on Bonaire. She has experience in Communications and writes for Dutch language newspapers.



and the reception at Plaza Resort Bonaire. They will be NAf 35 at the door.

Children under 12, accompanied by parents pay NAf 10. A full house is expected. Get tickets early and don't be late!

► **What's a gift everyone will love?** A Jong Bonaire 2010 calendar. On sale at the Warehouse Bonaire Supermarket at the cost price. Buy several.

► **Our last issue had a few errors.** UPB leader Yonchi Dortalina's name and our granddaughter's second middle name, Tal-lan, were misspelled. The photo in the coral spawning article was taken by Johannetta Gordijn. We apologize for the mistakes. ■

G./L. D.



This Month– Dec. Energy Work Classes At Bonaire Basics

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Tuition NAf 150 (\$85) in Bonaire (\$350 in USA) + \$30 for materials

**2- Energetic Touch Techniques
Class, Evenings, Dec. 22 and 29th,
2009 for advanced practitioners**

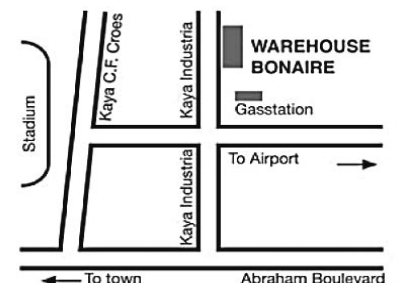
Tuition NAf 150 (\$85) in Bonaire (regular USA fee is \$350)

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RSC Donates New Computer Lab to Jong Bonaire



Jona Chirino, manager of JB; Jorge Ferron of Breathe IT; kwartiermaker for youth and family Marga Drewes; Glenda Bernabela from the board of JB; JB Foundation President Rene Hakkenberg; IT specialists, Leonard Blackman and Fernando Hatermink.

With the help of the Dutch Ministry for Youth and Family, Jong Bonaire has completely upgraded its computer lab at the youth center. Regional Service Center (RSC) kwartiermaker Marga Drewes helped the center make the application for the project and was on hand recently for the grand opening.

"On behalf of the Ministry and the RSC it gives us great pleasure to contribute toward Bonaire's future," said Drewes at the opening of the computer lab. "Fast computers that work well are important for our young people to learn and better prepare for their future."

"This is just the first of many investments that the Ministry plans to help improve the services available to the families and youth of Bonaire," Drewes said during the opening of the renovated facility.

With the grant from the RSC Jong Bonaire was able to install 26 new computers

along with an upgraded server for the system. Electricity for the equipment was also upgraded along with new *erko* (air conditioning) and a new roof for the computer lab.

"Most of the equipment in the computer lab was six years old and many of the computers were no longer working. Even if a computer was working it was very slow," said Rene Hakkenberg, *voorzitter* (President) for the Jong Bonaire *bestuur* (Directorate). "It had become difficult for the members to do their homework."

"The computer lab is one of the most popular activities at Jong Bonaire," said manager Jona Chirino. "Now the facility can better meet the needs of our members but also other groups in the community who need to rent such a facility for training."

The new system also has updated software and new educational programs for the teens to improve their language and other

skills. Some of the funds from the RSC will also be used to purchase more educational software.

"The resources of the RSC are very much appreciated and it has been very helpful and productive working with this group," said Hakkenberg. "Our island and also Jong Bonaire have very limited resources. On our own we could not have made these important improvements to the youth center."

In 2010 there will be more improvements to both the Jong Bonaire facility and its programs that will also be sponsored by the Ministry.

The new computer system was developed and installed by Breathe IT, under the direction of Jorge Ferrón and his two specialists, Leonard Blackman and Fernando Hatermink. Pourier Construction made the roof and construction repairs while the center was closed for Regatta. MESA arranged for the electrical upgrades and StreefkerkTek managed the project. ■ *Story and photo by Jane Townsend*

CIEE Mangrove Study Begins

In recent weeks work has begun on the construction of "exclusion" cages along Kaminda di Sorobon as part of a year-long study to determine the possible impacts of grazing and trampling by goats and donkeys on mangrove habitat. The cages are designed to deter grazing and trampling by fencing off small areas (1 meter square). The cages will be constructed of polyethylene mesh attached to small diameter poles and the height of the cages will be such to prevent grazing from above.



Young mangroves

Once the cages are built, regular sampling will assess the plant density and biomass within the cages as well as invertebrate presence and sediment characteristics.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Amanda Hollebhone of the CIEE Research Station Bonaire and Scott Hausmann, a retired US wetland expert, with approval of STINAPA and the government of Bonaire. For additional information on the study please contact CIEE Research Station Bonaire at 717-4140. ■ *Press release*

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Eli Deli Opens

At last there's a world class delicatessen on Bonaire. It's Eli Deli on the traffic circle by the old Sunset Beach Hotel and is run by Ana, her husband Eugene and daughter Eli, an SGB student.

The shop offers 23 different kinds of cheeses. Take your pick: they're from Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, England and Spain. Beautiful hams are Serrano, Parma, Ardenne, Hungarian. There's Spanish salami and chorizo, linburgse, york ham and pastrami to mention a few.

Buy them by the slice to take home or have them made into hot or cold sandwiches and accompany that with their homemade salads and olives.

Eli Deli is open for breakfast too. They have omelets, croissants and espresso type coffees.

On the shelves are rice from India, Spain and Italy, pastas, olive oils, and sardines.

Ana, from Portugal, is married to Eugene from Bonaire and during their 11 years in Holland Ana at first worked in the hotel business as a chef but during the last seven years she immersed herself in working in a delicatessen in Rotterdam, the Vermeijden Deli.

The family returned to Bonaire two



years ago and now they've realized their dream to have their own delicatessen on Bonaire.

And we all could not be happier!

Eli's Deli is open Monday-Friday, 7-6, Saturday 8-4 and Sunday 8-noon. Tel. 717-3997. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Job Market



This year's Sixth Annual Study and Job Fair (*beroepmarkt*) on Saturday the 14th of November was an opportunity for all youngsters and their families to see what their future could be. How very fortunate that such a fair exists for young people to be able to see for themselves what a grand selection there is from which to choose.

Do you want to be a banker, a nurse, a fireman, find a school of higher education? This is your chance. The rooms and patios of Jong Bonaire thronged with people eager to get information from the exhibitors.

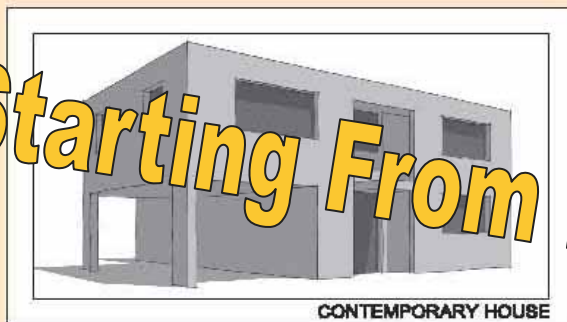
This year there were dozens of exhibitors and lots of people to talk about their subject, to answer questions and especially to show their enthusiasm. There were representatives from banks, the police and fire departments, the Coast Guard, insurance companies, phone companies, STINAPA, the high school, TCB, and many many more from on island and off.

This amazing fair was put together by the Ban Boneiru Bek Foundation. They deserve a big thank you. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Bonaire Sunshine Homes, Banco di Caribe & RBTT Bank proudly present EXPO - THE AFFORDABLE HOMES SHOW



HOUSE



CONTEMPORARY HOUSE



GARAGE

Homes Starting From NAf 100,000

Date : 28th November 2009

Time : 09:00 - 17:00 - Exhibition of the building system
11:00 - 12:30 - Product workshop on the building
Environmental/Cost Effectiveness/Structural Integrity

Place: Bonaire Sunshine Homes Building at Kaya Lib. S. Bolivar 26

Banco di Caribe and RBTT will take mortgage applications and pre-approve on site



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SATURDAY,
28TH NOVEMBER
FROM 9AM-5PM



SURE CAUSE OF BAD SNORKELING VISIBILITY



Dear Editor,

As a regular swimmer I visit Bongo's Beach during my lunch breaks. I could not help noticing the invasion of the cruise ship tourists. They are all over: in the restaurant, at the pool, on the beach, on the pier and its slippery stairs, and, of course, in the water.

You know what happens if, let's say, 100 persons swim around the pier for a few hours? The water turns completely white, like milk.

Vision zero, and a terrible smell like a cheap after-shave is hanging above the water.

Only after 10 meters from the pier or so, visibility becomes better again.

The cause of this phenomenon can only be the sun lotion (sun screen, suntan lotion) people are obviously using in a great measure.

When I tried "Googling" pollution + sun lotion + water in different settings I only found items about protecting yourself against polluted water.

If you search for water-proof or water-resistant sun lotion, all people are interested in is having to rub yourself as little as possible.

Not a word about the consequences for the water itself.

Finally, however, I did find some items about natural lotions which are friendly to the environment. So they exist!

I know that it is forbidden by STINAPA to use sun lotion if you are going to kayak in the mangroves. Signs say so at the Kayak Center and at Lac.

Is it not strange then that this prohibition is not valid for the sea? Jibe City for instance is very close to the mangroves but does not know about the prohibition of using sun lotion.

I think that next to some causes of damaging the reefs, there is another one to take care of: making people see what the consequences are of using sun lotion that is not water-resistant.

It will become a hard task because the funny thing was that most of those people who were swimming over there in the milk with their snorkels did not even bother to go more than 10 meters away from the pier. They just kept snorkeling, seeing nothing but white!

Maybe they spread the word that snorkeling on Bonaire is not something to do because of the terrible visibility.

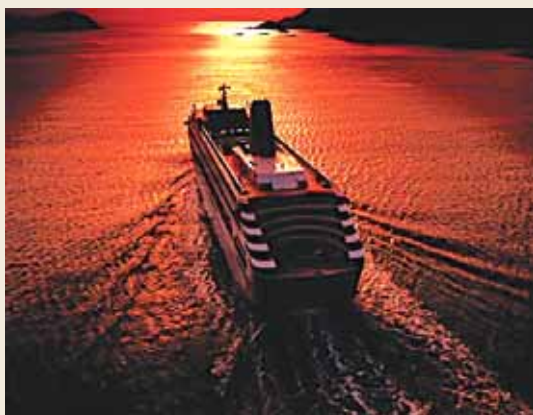
Problem solved!

R. Sanders

Note: A study sponsored by the European Commission determined there is evidence that sun blocking lotions can harm the reefs. See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/2018159/European-Commission-Suntan-lotions-could-kill-colourful-corals.html>

Currently only biodegradable sunscreens are permitted in Cozumel's marine park, Xcaret -Ed.

WHY ARE CRUISE VISITORS SO PRIVILEGED?



Dear Editor:

Quite a few vacationers, many of whom have come to Bonaire year after year, are asking some serious questions. It was announced that everyone on Bonaire should try to make sure the people getting off cruise ships are shown a wonderful time so when they leave after a few hours here, they do so with a very good impression of Bonaire.

The people who are vacationing here for a week or two and spend 100's of times more money ask what about their impression of Bonaire? Does no one care what they think? Roads are blocked off so they cannot get around town easily. Tour buses make driving to places such as Karpata take an hour instead of minutes because tour buses will not allow anyone to pass and stop every few minutes. Beaches are overrun with cruise ship passengers taking away space so vacationers are pushed aside. The water in front of these beaches is an oil slick from sun tan lotion, proven to be very harmful to corals. These passengers walk down the roads instead of using sidewalks, making driving difficult. A huge amount of money is being spent on a pier which is questionable if it will pay for itself while other areas of Bonaire are left to decay. Why do these cruise ship people pay a pittance (which has only started this year!) when everyone else pays a huge departure tax and at least \$5.50 per day just to be here? Why do cruise ship passengers pay nothing to use the Bonaire National Marine Park when others have to pay a minimum of \$10?

So the bottom line is - why do people who spend a few dollars get such high preference over those who spend thousands and are far less a problem to the overall environment of Bonaire?

These are just some of the questions that are being asked by our best guests coming to Bonaire.

Bruce Bowker

THE BONAIRE REPORTER ON LINE

Dear Editor:

We have been reading *The Bonaire Reporter* (on-line) for a long time. We love Bonaire and your publication is just wonderful -- a great way to stay in touch with what is going on, and a good long-distance reminder of Bonaire's daily life.

After saying that, I'm a little embarrassed to admit that I haven't looked in several months -- sometimes it's hard to accept that we can't always afford to visit.

So today I found a few things on the (new) *Bonaire Reporter* home page on the web.

First, I think the raw news is great! It's a little like the Flotsam and Jetsam section. Very interesting.

And today we see little Ava Rose Tallan Wuyts. Beautiful. May she have a happy life.

Chris Ischay, Boston, MA

Body Talk

HOW DOES THIS CLIMATE AFFECT YOUR BODY?

I am pretty sure all of us will agree that at the moment it is very hot and dry here on Bonaire, and we are perspiring like mad. Ten minutes after walking out of a shower I am ready to go back for another one. Does one ever get used to this?



Very few people realize just how many vitamins and minerals are lost from the body on a daily basis due to this excessive perspiring. Don't get me wrong, perspiring is good as, together with the kidneys, toxins are expelled from the body. Just look at the color of your first urine in the morning. The darker the color, the more toxins in your body. Drinking a fair amount of water throughout the day helps with urinating and perspiration, but unfortunately also adds to a loss of vitamins and minerals that, unless a very large portion of your daily food intake is raw, is not being replenished. The end result of a loss of vitamins and minerals is initially minor problems like fatigue, headaches, body cramps, colds and susceptibility to minor viruses like eye infection, a stomach virus, fevers or the "kissing disease."

The importance of minerals to the human body has been largely ignored for too long. If the cells of the body do not receive their proper nourishment or when they cannot rid themselves of toxic waste, a disease process will begin and the automatic alarm system activates symptoms. The body's inability to rid itself of toxic waste is perhaps the biggest contributor to disease and can so

easily be rectified by supplementing with minerals. The reason we keep on getting the same health problems is that diseased cells (without proper nourishment) are replaced by weak cells instead of strong healthy cells.

The most effective mineral supplements are the 12 Biochemic Cell Salts available worldwide under brand names like New Era and Highlands. These cell salts provide inorganic elements in a form that ensures easy absorption into the body and can be used safely by children and adults alike. Their uses are endless and I suggest you first reach for your minerals before taking any over-the-counter medication. For more information you could contact me on 788-0030 or visit our website www.harmonyhousebonaire.com/html/minerals.html

Next issue - Do negative emotions rule your life? ■

Stephanie Bennett

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



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urday from 8-4pm. Bikes, sliding
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Lucy Diaz, with her lovely daughter, Elesiër Angel, last October took a cruise aboard the Carnival "Freedom" and they visited a couple of places among others the island of Jamaica.

They took the opportunity to visit the very famous "Dunn's Falls River" in Ocho Rios. And of course they brought with them *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■

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.

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
11-27	1:25	1.0FT.	9:50	1.8FT.	18:21	1.1FT.	20:18	1.2FT.	38
11-28	1:14	1.0FT.	10:06	1.9FT.	19:14	1.0FT.	21:47	1.1FT.	48
11-29	1:01	1.0FT.	10:31	2.0FT.	20:05	0.9FT.	23:05	1.0FT.	60
11-30	11:06	2.1FT.	20:48	0.9FT.					73
12-01	11:43	2.1FT.	21:43	0.8FT.					84
12-02	12:22	2.1FT.	22:28	0.7FT.					93
12-03	13:12	2.1FT.	23:06	0.7FT.					98
12-03	13:12	2.1FT.	23:06	0.7FT.					98
12-04	13:59	2.1FT.	23:44	0.7FT.					100
12-05	0:18	0.7FT.	14:56	2.0FT.					97
12-06	0:56	0.7FT.	15:54	1.9FT.					90
12-07	1:23	0.8FT.	17:01	1.7FT.					81
12-08	1:42	0.9FT.	8:46	1.5FT.	13:18	1.4FT.	18:05	1.6FT.	70
12-09	1:49	1.0FT.	8:45	1.6FT.	15:13	1.2FT.	19:22	1.4FT.	60
12-10	1:40	1.0FT.	9:07	1.8FT.	16:32	1.1FT.	20:28	1.3FT.	54



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Thursday	November 26, 2009	Caribbean Princess	1100-1900	3100
Sunday	November 29, 2009	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258
Monday	November 30, 2009	AidaAura	0800-1600	1260
Monday	November 30, 2009	Artemis	0800-1800	1200
Tuesday	December 1, 2009	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Wednesday	December 2, 2009	Sea Princess	1200-1900	2016
Tuesday	December 8, 2009	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Thursday	December 10, 2009	Sea Cloud II	0900-2400	150
Thursday	December 10, 2009	Ruby Princess	1100-1900	3100
Friday	December 11, 2009	Enchantment of the Seas	0700-1530	1950

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10am until ship departure.

Thursday, Nov. 26 – American Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Nov. 27 – Green Label's 10-year Anniversary party, 5-8 pm, at the shop, Kaya Industria 28, behind TIS. See story on page 15

Friday, November 27 – Bonaire Animal Shelter Bi-Annual Fundraiser: Indonesian Dinner and Art Auction.

Dinner 6 pm, Art Auction 8 pm. Dinner is NAf 55 per person. Auction is free. Plaza Hotel. Tickets at: Asecom NV (717-3207), Jacobs Architecten NV (787-0466), Jan Kerklaan (786-3454), Animal Shelter Bonaire (717-4989). Or by email: paulwichers@flamingotv.net

Saturday, November 28 – Sanikolas (Sint Nicholaas) and Swarte Pieten (Black Petes) arrive at Town Pier at 9:30 am. The 15th year organized by Fundashon Ata Sanikolas i Swartepiet and SEBIKI. Fun and games in Wilhelmina Park.

Saturday, Nov. 28 – Affordable Homes Expo, 8:30am-5 pm, Bonaire Sunshine Homes, opposite San Bernardo church and Scarlet's Flower shop

Saturday, Nov. 28- Opening of Exhibition by Hortence Brouwn, Feelings." Plaza Resort, 7-9 pm. Music performances by Hans Faassen and Guus Gerritsen. Exhibit ends Jan. 8, 2010

Sunday, Nov. 29 – Last "Taste of Bonaire" of the year. Anniversary Celebration of the Bonaire National Marine Park, Wilhelmina Park, 6-9pm.

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Big monthly Rincon Market, 6 am to 2 pm. Stands selling gifts, local foods, arts, handicrafts, candles. Music too.

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 – 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling tables (NAf5 goes to upkeep of the park). NGOs can have a free table. Call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592.

Saturday, Dec. 5 – Burger Contest, at Flamingo TV. More information on page 9.

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 cooler 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.**

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm.** Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **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**

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 Condos.

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 December 25th. and January 1st. **Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

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, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAf2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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 Wednesdays, 12 noon-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort upstairs in Peter Hughes meeting room above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita 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

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter

Email reporter@bonairenews.com

Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

or 790-8988

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$70; By mail to Europe \$150. By Internet \$35 donation. For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. Antilles. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters: Siomara E. Albertus, Stephanie Bennett, J@n Brouwer, Christie Dovale, Ap van Eldik, Annie Heese, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Bartikoski-Kearny, Greta Kooistra, Ruben Petrisie, Jane Townsend, Inge Vos, Pamela Williams Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

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Pet of the Week

This young lady, Finn, nine years old, is a regular volunteer at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Finn is a student at the Pelican School and you will find her at the Shelter every Wednesday, helping out with all the pets. Here she is with new arrival, "Petunia," a seven-week-old puppy who came into the Shelter with her brother. Their mother was hit and killed by a car but luckily the puppies were found and brought into the Shelter. Finn's job that day was to bathe both puppies and she did a fine job. Petunia's brother already has been adopted but he and Petunia will have to stay on until they are a little older and stronger. Both puppies are healthy and in perfect shape for their age. They've had their tests, worming and will be sterilized when they're old enough. You can always be sure that adopting a dog or cat from the Shelter assures you of a "nearly perfect" pet – healthy and social.



You may see "Petunia" and the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Can you help? The Shelter is looking for a volunteer to sell at the Shelter stand at the Cruise Ship Market at Wilhelmina Park on cruise ship visitor days. It's an extremely worthwhile job because all the proceeds go towards keeping the Shelter open to take in unwanted pets. You will be selling tee shirts, license plates, calendars and Germaine Nijdam hand painted signs. If you can help please call Amina at 786-1905. It's a fun job too, other volunteers report.

Don't forget the Shelter Fundraiser, Art Auction and Indonesian Dinner, this Friday, November 27. More information on page 14 (Happenings). ■

Laura DeSalvo

Sterilization Campaign Update

On May 15 the Animal Shelter started a large scale campaign to reduce the amount of stray and street dogs on Bonaire. This project is called, "Bonny, the Superdog," and so far more than 300 dogs have been sterilized.

Number 300 was the dog from the Wing Cheung Supermarket on Kaya Korona. The dog's name is Wong – a sturdy Rottweiler look-a-like who had given birth to a fairly large amount of puppies. Wong's owners felt it was time for Wong to retire and decided to have her sterilized. The operation went well and when Wong got home she was welcomed with a big bowl of chicken legs.

Every dog a Superdog!

So, in the meantime more than 300 dogs have been sterilized, but the goal of "Bonny, the Superdog" sterilization project is to sterilize 500 dogs. This way, the Bonaire Animal Shelter hopes to contribute to changing many dogs' lives into Superdog lives!

For more information about this free sterilization campaign you can contact the Shelter at: Dierenasiel Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Bonaire. Phone 717-4989, www.animalshelterbonaire.com, www.bonnysuperdog.com, animalshelter@flamingotv.net, ■

Greta Kooistra



10-Years For Green Label

This Friday, 27th of November, the Green Label Garden Center will celebrate a happy 10 years in business on Bonaire and the opening of its new shop.

In the words of founder and owner Ap van Eldik: "Wow! Time sure flies when you're busy!"

I remember as if it were yesterday when we opened our old shop on Kaya Nicolaas, a crowd outside watching us put up the sign.

A lot has happened since that time, to us and to Bonaire. Especially during the last three years we have had so many changes that sometimes we had the feeling it went too fast.

But, let's face it, the old shop became far too small, and we found our great new property on Kaya Industria and we moved over here. But that still wasn't enough, so we built our own building and with the guiding hands of our shop manager, Mr. Johan van Bleek, we were able to open our very own shop with more space and even more green at the end of the same property.

This never would have been possible without the really appreciated support of YOU, our very much respected loyal clients.

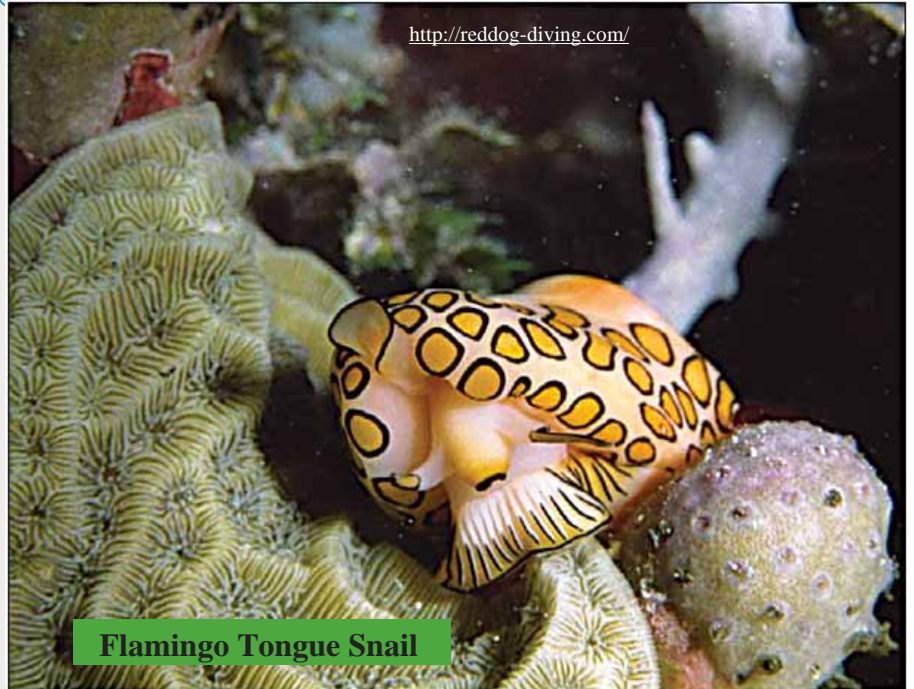
We, the team of Green Label, would like to thank you for this support and want to invite all of our loyal clients to take a look at this new shop and raise our glasses to 10 years of support, Friday 27th of November from 5 to 8 at our property on Kaya Industria, behind the TIS supermarket. Bon Bini! ■

Ap van Eldik



Bubbles from the Biologist

<http://reddog-diving.com/>



Flamingo Tongue Snail

Did You Know...

The Flamingo Tongue Snail uses its stomach as a foot?

Maxing out at about one inch long, the flamingo tongue snail is a (once) rare but beautiful sight on the coral reefs of Bonaire. This stomach-footed creature crawls along the branches of coral, munching on the polyps with its radula. However, this sea snail does not destroy the coral, eating just enough so the polyps often grow back. It's only when their population explodes that they pose a threat to coral reefs. The colors on the flamingo tongue snail are not a part of the shell, rather a layer of mantle tissue that covers the shell. The tissue encompassing the shell works similarly to a fish's gills, exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide for it to breathe. The animal

will retract its mantle flaps when attacked, revealing its true white colored shell. ■

Pamela Williams

Williams attends the University of Colorado at Boulder. While majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology back in the US she decided to come to the CIEE Research Station in Bonaire to learn more about how to make a difference in the declining coral reef ecosystems.



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BES TAX Plan

The key features of the tax proposals for the BES islands were recently released. Their objective is to maintain existing tax levels and to simplify the structure. Note that this structure will not apply to Bonaire if the island government chooses a different association with Holland than previously agreed.

Income and Payroll Taxes:

Antillean income and payroll taxes remain with a new fee structure that includes income tax and AOV (retirement) and AWW (Widows and Orphans) insurance premiums. The first \$9,000 (approximately NAf 16.000) is tax free. The child deduction is set at \$1,250 per child, up to \$2,500 per taxpayer.

The tax rate is set at 3.6 % for the first \$26,396 (approximately NAf 47.500) and 30.4 % for the excess. The base rate doesn't include insurance premiums but the top rate does. The deductions for student study and mortgage payments remain.

The deals that *pensionados* got are gone. This means that *pensionados* also will be taxed at 30.4%. Although initially the intention was not to tax capital gains, capital gains taxes are back in the proposed legislation.

An exemption is included for the first \$5,000 of interest in interest and dividends. As under the current legislation if a taxpayer has a substantial interest (5%) of the shares or profit in a NV or BV or any other body having share capital, there is a tax. But the tax was slashed from the current rate of 15% plus surcharge to 5%.

A yield tax is levied on the proceeds of shares and dividend rights and benefits of a foundation, purpose or common fund assets. The rate of income tax is 5%. The yield tax is applicable to entities that are located in the BES islands.

Land Tax:

Property tax is levied on true property values. The value is renewable every five years. The levy is 20% on a basis of 4% of the actual value, effectively making the tax rate 0.9% of the actual value. Exemptions will include the main residence serving as your home, kunuku houses with a value not exceeding \$50,000 and for property used for agricultural or commercial forestry purposes

Tax Shelter Safeguards:

A considerable number of safeguards have been incorporated into the law to prevent the islands from becoming a tax haven. Only bona-fide BES companies should be able to qualify.

General Use Tax:

A general use tax (ABB) is introduced to replace import duties and sales taxes. The rate will amount from 6- 8%. However, vehicles are charged a rate of 25%, except for highly energy-efficient cars, in which case the rate is zero. The ABB is levied on goods and services. The tax is applied only once and not at each transfer as in a Value Added Tax. There is no tax on bread, grain, potatoes and rice.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is increased from 4% to 5%.

Bonaire has an excise tax but Saba and St. Eustatius don't. On Bonaire, there will be an excise tax on wine, smoking tobacco, cigars and cigarillos.

This is a brief summary of the BES islands tax proposal before the Dutch legislature. For more information people are advised to email info@an.pwc.comor consult an accountant . ■ G.D.

Puzzle on page 7

Sudoku Solution

427 368 195
369 571 428
518 294 376
642 715 983
891 423 657
735 986 214
984 652 731
173 849 562
256 137 849

Ludo Nicolaas Honored

When *The Reporter* wanted to learn about how the Bonaire and Antilles Governments were organized we were told, "Ask Ludovico (Ludo) Nicolaas." We did, learned a lot and discovered a man who truly loved and understood statecraft and Government. Recently he was honored with a reception for his 25 years of government service.

At the reception which included his family, Deputy Frensel Janga presented him with a certificate of honor and an "envelope."

Ludovico has been in local government since 1983, after working temporarily in Pijnacker, Holland. From 1983 to 1987 he worked at the Central Government Welfare, *Ambtenaar Welzijnszaken*. From 1990 to 1992 worked for Antillenhuis Den Haag as officer in charge of the Antillenhuis publications and was involved in helping organize events and aiding the Plenipotentiary Minister. From 1992 until today he's worked with the government of Bonaire.

From 1992 to 2000 Ludo worked in *Afdeling Voorlichting en Bestuursondersteuning* (government protocol and press office). During that period he handled the visits of important people to Bonaire such as the Queen, Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima and the President of Germany. As well he was responsible for the government's press office. Most recently he's served as the portfolio advisor for the Deputy involved with economic matters. Ludo is not only an exemplary public servant, he's a longtime member of the great band, Glen

Bonaire government photo



Ludo Nicolaas' two lives: honored public servant and musical performer (inset)



BonQuiz Answer

Question (from page 7):

Q) Which religious order worshipped in the chapel?

A) *De zusters van Roosendaal*.

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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

Wheel Me On President Julia Hollenbeck Visits Bonaire

The 58th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Just recently, Julia Hollenbeck, president of "Wheel Me On," an American non-profit organization that promotes traveling for persons using wheelchairs, visited the island of Bonaire. Her goal was to inspect the island for wheelchair friendliness and encourage access for persons with disabilities (PWD), and after one day of intensive exploring, the impressions were very positive.

It was Chris and Yvonne from the *Samur* sailboat who asked me whether I would like to drive and guide Julia Hollenbeck for one day around the island. As I had followed the Bonaire in depth and guiding skills course organized by Sue Felix in 2008, to me it was a challenge to drive Julia around and inform her about my beloved island.

The day before I had cleaned and prepared my vehicle, a double cabin Hilux, and I had thought about how to get her in and out of the car. Maybe an upside down beer case could function as a step.

Then, quite early, the next morning the *Ruby Princess* cruise ship arrived on Bonaire. Fortunately, the harbor authorities had given me permission to drive my car on the pier, as close to the ship as I was allowed. Crewmembers of the *Ruby Princess* had helped Julia off the impressive ship. Yvonne from the *Samur* and I welcomed Julia. She appeared to be a very friendly and open-minded person, loaded with enthusiasm.

Then Harold, a member of the crew on the ship explained to me how to take the wheelchair partly apart and fold it up to put it in the back of the vehicle. It was only the day before that the idea popped up to combine the tour around the island with an article in the "Bonaire on Wheels" series.

So Julia Hollenbeck showed me her wheelchair: a very sturdy, and very light four-wheeled vehicle made by Inva-care in the US. Julia won it when earning the title of "Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee 2003!" The whole unit was completely foldable. The arm rests, wheels and leg rests were removable, or you could easily fold the footrests to collapse the chair completely. The rims were Sunrims, to be exact, and were fitted with stainless steel spokes (according to Julia, "Many have offered to swap their wheels with me."), and the grey Primo Orion tires contained 73 PSI of air for a smooth and light ride. The aluminum frame of the wheelchair was anodized red and Julia kept the dual "wheelie poppers" at the rear in an upright position unless a "pusher" wanted them off or down. These wheels are really sharp looking, a nice piece of work, and state-of-the art.

I loaded her and the wheelchair into my vehicle, then I started the engine and we were ready for takeoff. The tour would be interesting: long, and intensive. First, we made a stop on the little elevation along the coast near the airport. Then we stopped at the salt pier, the slave huts and the

King William lighthouse. We drove to several beaches at Sorobon and we watched the local fishermen in the natural harbor. We passed the mangroves and spotted many flamingos. Then we returned to Kralendijk, only to start the second part of our tour: the road along the coast to Bopec (Bonairean Petroleum Company), Goto Lake with even more flamingos to see, the Dos Pos water mill and the lovely and safe little old village of Rincon.

We made a stop at the Blo-Karts on the track of Land Sailing Bonaire. We had a talk with Nelson Croft and Naomi from the BloKart enterprise and we learned it was even possible for PWD using mobility devices like in wheelchairs to have fun in a two-seater BloKart. During that time, it was only I who did some quick loops around the racetrack - always fun, never boring.

Last but not least we climbed Seru Grandi (by truck of course) and we enjoyed the panoramic view: the mountains in the north, the wild coast and the light house of Spelonk, the flats of the south and the snowy mountains of the Cargill Salt Company, the city of Kralendijk and the cruise ship on the pier, Klein Bonaire. What an impressive view for both of us. Then, unfortunately, it was time to go back to the *Ruby Princess*.

All in all it took us some five hours and almost a hundred kilometers to get a serious first impression of the island. During our trip Julia became more and more enthusiastic as she noticed the pavements were in a good



Julia Hollenbeck, smiling as always, president of Wheel Me On. A non profit organization that promotes traveling for wheelchair people.

condition. Here and there, we found a spacious toilet accessible for persons using wheelchairs. Some restaurants appeared to be wheelchair friendly and we even found some special parking spaces, reserved for PWD.

Unfortunately, I was not able to arrange a meeting in time between the sympathetic president of Wheel Me On... and a Bonairean citizen named Oswald Melcherts. He is the man using the wheelchair with the Surinam flag mounted on it and is the one behind the MiVaBo (Stichting Minder Validen Bonaire/ Foundation for Less Valid Persons Bonaire). It is Oswald and his non-profit organization that do their utmost best to make Bonaire as wheelchair friendly as possible. Oswald's goal is to make Bonaire 100% wheelchair friendly and accessible. Moreover, the results are there.

The next day I had a talk with Oswald. Full of enthusiasm, he starts talking about the island and the mission of his organization. He informs me about wheelchair friendly restaurants such as "It Rains Fishes" and he indicates some parking areas

reserved for PWD using wheels. The only known public toilet for PWD in the capital of the island is situated in the hospital of Kralendijk. Even Oswald Melcherts does not know of the existence of such a special facility, for instance, in the remote village of Rincon. Therefore, there are definitely results, but there is also a lot of work remaining to do.

The next time Julia visits our island, I shall arrange a meeting and a tour for the two of them: Julia and Oswald in the car and two foldable wheelchairs in the back. It will definitely be fun to drive over the lovely island with those two brave knights!

For more information just hop to www.wheelmeon.org or contact Oswald: omelcherts@hotmail.com. ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



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*to find it... just look up

Dates to Remember in December: Several Cosmic Goodies Await Your Viewing Pleasure



Looking high in the south 1 A.M., December 14

In addition to all the holiday gift giving going on, December will be gifting us with several goodies from the cosmos. Because December is one of those peculiar months which will have **two full moons**, one of which will be on New Year's Eve. Plus two wonderful planets will share opposite sides of the sky before midnight. And what may be the best meteor shower of the year, the **Geminids**, will give us something to ooh and aah about.

On Tuesday, December 1st just after sunset you will see an almost, just a few hours away from full, **Moon** rising. It will slowly travel up the sky and reach its highest point around midnight. And as it slowly starts to descend it will officially turn full Tuesday morning at 2:30 am Eastern Time and will finally set at sunrise. Full moon number two will occur on New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31st. Called the **Long Night Moon**, because the hours of darkness are always longest at this time of year in the northern hemisphere, it will also rise just after sunset and be visible in the sky all night long, reaching its highest point around midnight, and will be super high and will look almost like a floodlight attached to the top of the sky illuminating the landscape below as we ring in the New Year. The next dates I'd like you to mark down are late evening Sunday, December 13th and midnight to dawn Monday the 14th when the annual Geminid meteor shower may be the best of the year. Interestingly, unlike all other meteor showers which are usually better after midnight, the Geminid meteor shower is frequently good before midnight. But like all meteor showers, the longer you stay out, the more meteors you'll see.

And now for you planet aficionados, you'll have two really good ones to choose from before midnight. To see the first simply look toward the west just after sunset and you'll see dazzlingly bright, king of the planets, 88,000 mile wide **Jupiter**, 11 times the width of our planet **Earth** which is always fun to see through even the smallest of telescopes because you can watch four of his largest moons as they change place in orbit around the planet hour after hour. And as Jupiter sets in late evening you can turn around and face east and between 10 and 11 you'll see the 4,000-mile-wide rouge-gold planet **Mars** rising. And Mars is the one to watch because it is zooming closer and closer to us every single day. And it will be brighter each successive night. In fact it will grow almost two times brighter from December 1st to the 31st. So trace the progress of Mars and Jupiter this month, watch the Geminid meteor shower on the 13th and 14th and bathe under the light of two full Moons in one month's time. Cosmic goodies indeed. ■

Jack Horkheimer

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Cafe Astrology

By Annie Heese

December-2009

SAGITTARIUS (23 November - 21 December) - Happy Birthday Sagittarius! Energy, verve, and confidence are with you this month, until the last week of the month when your life winds down, quite appropriately! Until then, it's hustle and bustle, and matters are definitely working in your favor. A love interest has your best interests at heart just now. A proposal involving money comes to you in the last week of December. Writers and artists are especially inspired during this period.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 20 January) Issues revolving around your family and the past capture much of your attention this month. While others are racing around you, preparing for the holidays, you are enjoying a sense of peace. The last week of the month begins a power period that you take with you into the New Year. Tremendous energy and initiative is with you as you embark on a journey of internal change and personal discovery. It feels like you can move mountains.

AQUARIUS (21 January - 19 February) December is ripe with opportunity for envisioning new projects and goals for your future. Friends, acquaintances, and groups will certainly keep you busy. Romance, however, is mostly quiet until after the 7th, when Venus, the goddess of love, enters your sign and stays there into the New Year, bestowing beautiful energy for attracting what and who you want into your life.

PISCES (20 February - 20 March) In most ways, December is a high profile month for you, except for on a romantic level, which is satisfyingly private. You may be put "in charge" of a private matter. Secrets are revealed—and revealing. Intense energy comes from a friend in the last week of the month. It's virtually impossible to escape professional attention this month. The 12-16 is especially fortunate for work and financial matters.

ARIES (21 March - 20 April) is very rewarding this month, yet you still manage to find ways to break the routine. You are very busy expanding your horizons, whether it's through actual travel or "armchair travel". At times, you may come across as opinionated, but it's more likely enthusiasm for sharing your thoughts. Romance is to be found when you are enjoying non-routine activities. December presents a nice balance of recognition and accomplishment.

TAURUS (21 April - 21 May) Sharing, intimacy, finances, and power plays all figure strongly for you in December. In the first three weeks of the month, you are thinking strategically, making plans, and watching others around you more than you are participating. You stand to gain much from your observations! The last week of the month brings with it buzz of travel or educational opportunities, most likely involving a partner, who has been

going through a lot of changes recently
GEMINI (22 May - 21 June) Balancing your needs with those of a significant other involves plenty of negotiating and back-and-forth before arriving at any conclusions this month. Times like these require a certain amount of tact and a need to let others take center stage for the time being. A loan or repayment is likely to make headlines for you towards the end of December.

CANCER (22 June - 23 July) You simply can't wait until the New Year to begin fulfilling your resolutions regarding health, fitness, and lifestyle changes. The time is now! You are raring to go, ready to completely rework your routines. You have more energy than usual for work, projects, and anything that involves reorganizing and restructuring. Taking care of details is what's on your mind now. The last week of December brings intense energy to a partnership or significant relationship.

LEO (24 July - 23 August) The first three weeks of December are exciting and stimulating for you. This is a decidedly romantic and creative period for you. You have special magnetic appeal, extra energy, and a real yen for excitement now. Creative Leos will be on a roll, producing more than ever, and publishing opportunities may be forthcoming. The last week of December features a job offer or opportunity, possibly a work-at-home endeavor.

VIRGO (24 August - 23 September) A scurry of activity in and around the home or with family is in store for you this month. You are busy with preparations, repairs, and reorganizing—and enjoying every minute of it! It's a fabulous time to get your "nest" in order and functioning smoothly. The last week of December is positively intense for romance and intimacy. An exciting proposal or opportunity regarding love, recreation, and creativity comes your way.

LIBRA (24 September - 23 October) An especially busy—mostly pleasantly so—period is in store for you in the first three weeks of December. It can get a little hectic, with many errands to run, more ideas than you can realistically implement, and plenty of contact with friends, siblings, and neighbors. It's a time of networking, and you're coming across very smoothly. The last week of the month (and year!) is revealing and perhaps intense for family matters.

SCORPIO (24 October - 22 November) In many ways, December is a "money month" for you. You enjoy extra energy and enthusiasm for increasing your income. It's an excellent opportunity period for a bonus or raise that truly makes a difference in your life! If you're waiting for money in the form of a loan or repayment of a debt to you, it's likely to arrive around the Full Moon on the 12th. ■

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Bonaire Sailing School - More Kids than Boats!

Bonaire's sailing history goes back into the eons of time when the first inhabitants arrived by boat. Since then Bonaire's sailors have distinguished themselves on merchant and war ships, serving on the oceans of the world.

Today on the island the sailing tradition continues in part with the Bonaire Sailing School (BSSA), established more than 10 years ago. A group of 15 kids, very enthusiastic and talented, spend one to two days a week practicing their sailing skills in the harbor. The youngest, at seven or eight, begin sailing the Optimists. Then at 12 or 13 they can sail the Sunfish or Splash class boats. Most of them have been sailing for more than a year. In fact, one of the members, Kevin Dijkhoff, grandson of the winner of the first Bonaire Regatta, Ebo Domacassée, has been sailing for the last 10 years.

So we have very talented sailors but not enough good boats. What can we do? As long time instructor Artie DeVries explains, "The Sunfish Worlds are coming up in Curaçao in 2011 and we want to send our top sailors. Two years ago the boats just fell apart. So we got some donated. The Optimist fleet is okay for training. We have one or two good Optimist racing boats, but we need at least one or more Sunfish as all of the current ones are leaking. This is our first priority."

The BSSA members participate mightily against Curaçao sailors despite the disparity in level of equipment. Curaçao's equipment is top of the line.

Our sailors need five good used Sunfish (NAf 3.000 apiece) and two new racing Sunfish (NAf 7.500). They need dagger boards and rudders. They are looking for



Young Optimist sailors ready to launch

sponsors – at every financial level. If you want to see for yourself, go down to Regatta House on a Thursday after 3 to see the Sunfish and Splash sailors. On Friday about the same time you can see the Optimists sail. They all sail on Sundays as well from 10 to around noon. The kids receive expert instruction by Artie and Tom Nuijten.

They have a website in English and Dutch: WWW.BonaireSailingSchool.com. Or call Artie DeVries (tel. 717-7972, artiedevries@hotmail.com) or Ton Nuijten (tel. 717-4052, lauraenton@hotmail.com). ■

Laura DeSalvo

Salba Nos Lora Plants Trees

On Friday, November 6, 30 young indigenous fruit trees were planted in the area of the Tras Montaña botanical garden, Tera Bara. The Fundashon Salba Nos Lora is doing this so that more food can be found by the birds in the mondi. Hopefully, this will set an example for the birds and the loras will no longer need to hunt for food in the fruit trees in the kunukus or gardens in residential areas, where the loras are considered a nuisance. The plantings will also enrich and add to Bonaire's nature. This tree planting operation is made possible with help from *Vogelbescherming Netherlands*. Three employees of LVV will make sure that all trees will be well cared for.

On National Arbor Day, November 22, the foundation planted another hundred trees along the "Kaya di Lora" in the open air museum of Mangazina di Rei.

Salba Nos Lora chose the tree sites and the types of trees with care. There had to be loras in the vicinity, the young trees must be protected from goats and donkeys, and during the first years the trees will be watered in the dry season. The place must also be accessible to visitors. The foundation will place signs so that visitors can learn about the lora and the trees. The native trees, once established, should



Danilo Christiaan, Mama Smile and Elsmarie Beukenboom



Marian Walthie photos

need little water and have fruits in the dry season. The trees that are being planted are: *calbas*, *wayaka*, *watakeli*, *kibrahacha*, *pal'isia*, *taki*, *oliba*, *pal'i lora*, and *palu palu pretu spesial*.

Salba Nos Lora urges all residents of Bonaire to plant a tree or to donate to the foundation. ■ *Press release*