Sailing School Kids
Carrying On A Tradition

Laura DeSalvo photo
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 airfare, a business class airfare, resort accommodations and special medical care. The program would be offered by the Dutch personal recovery specialists U-Center.

A Bonaire Reporter Question

Times are tough for Caribbean tourism. The economies of the US, has been slow and airlines are cutting back. What 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 disaster, 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 tell us your thoughts.

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Rescinded its decision that foreign workers had to leave the island after three years.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)
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 Statutes 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.

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.

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.”

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.”

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)
"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 Curacao for the first time. In 1989 we spent the Christmas holidays with Michael and baby boy Tobias on Curacao and still we had not seen Bonaire.

When my mother and I went for a vacation to Curacao 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 told 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 wheelchair - 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 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..."
time with our sons too. Michael just fin-
ished Hotel Management and Tobias is
studying Tourism and Event Management.
Both of them prefer to come here instead of
go home 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 Insti-
tute. 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 de-
cided 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
collected in the course TCB organized
in Papiamentu, ‘Turismo, nos bida, nos
futura’, and both of us got our diploma.
There’s going to be a follow up and we’ll
see 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. Tour-
ists 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 construc-
tion. 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 were we spent the week-
ends; the children learned how to swim
there, they learned how to snorkel and it
was the language 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 some-
thing 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 tak-
ing place on the island, in three languages.
Let’s say there could be a special an-
nouncement board at all the big supermar-
kers 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 cul-
ture of this island, so that all of us will be
involved in what’s going on in our com-
unity. There’s way more to Bonaire then
diving!

Life on Bonaire is just different. It’s
deeper 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 Curacao, 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
at night there are always several happy
hours. In Germany we used to go to con-
certs and theaters, but here there are vari-
ous 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 meet-
ing other cultures. We
are globe trotters – we
still are - but Bonaire
has become the center
of our life.”

Brigitte and Wilfried Kersting

Story & Photos by
Greta Kooistra
Ruben Petrisie is a professional windsurfer from Bonaire who represents the Scandinavian windsurfing scene. 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 chat along the way, and it’s always good to experience new things.

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 upright 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 finish the race with a 9.0 and went Kona racing in my shorts. I took 5 knots.

The next days were pretty mellow; we visited Ebeltoft, close to a port where a huge ferry from Copenhagen brings in some nice sets of waves. At Alro 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 of spots. After the long distance I took it as a place to relax and enjoy this windsurf spot or fjord as well.

Hanstholm / Kiltmoller / 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. We worked on a fun club track that will be released on my demo this fall. 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.
BONAIREAN VOICES

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.

Dicktion Papiamentu:
Lesa 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 Thödè, Bóni Antoin and Mama Smile have shared their favorite stories. 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 month, the Library has welcomed almost 900 new members. Youngsters have until the end of November 2009 to receive their free library card. 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.

Our Nutrition in School article will continue in the next issue. Our Nutrition in School article will continue in the next issue.

Gluon Thodé, Bòi Antoin and Mama Smile are prominent Bonaireans.

BIBLIOTEKA PUBLIKO BONEIRU
(PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BONAIRE)

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

Lexi Ke 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 Thödè, Bóni Antoin and Mama Smile have shared their favorite stories. In this way the Library also tries to stimulate parents to read to their children.

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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.

Almost all children love to have someone read to them
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 (Curacao 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 Bonairaens vote the same way in the March 2010 Referendum, it would trash the UPB. More than ever, “he agreed to lead his party’s campaign for the parliamentary elections on January 22, 2010.”

As 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 party leader and retiring from political activism to return to Holland.

The Referendum debate is just beginning. The Referendum debate is just beginning. The Referendum debate is just beginning. The Referendum debate is just beginning. The Referendum debate is just beginning.
Five of the 13 custodians of the Bonaire jail left for the Netherlands for two weeks. Rene Borg Lindun, Ditmar Palm, Silberie Humphrey, Roy Burleson and Arlene Dorothea, as interns, will check out the jail of the Bonaire-Sint Eustatius and Saba. 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 Beukensboom, 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. Beukensboom 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 held October 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 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 Maitsest from Bonaire for Bonaire. The program will include light European, American and Antillean classical music; sing-alongs and more! Plus an after party.

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 Feil.

Radjwant Gonesh, piano solo with Antillean dances.

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

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

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

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 person’s” card.

According to Health Minister Omayra Leerlang, 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 to 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 obligated 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 NAƒ 478 per month. For example, if a person’s income were NAƒ 2,000 per month, he would pay 10.4% of that amount or NAƒ 208 per month. If the person is receiving an AOV pension, on application, he/she can authorize SVB to withhold the premium for AOV pension insurance from his or her old age pension. For a retired couple each must pay his or her own premium.

A 60-plusher 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, and the reception at Plaza Resort Bonaire. They will be NAƒ 35 at the door.

Children under 12, accompanied by parents pay NAƒ 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 Tonchi Portaltina’s name and our granddaughter’s second middle name, Tale, were misspelled. The photo in the coral spawning article was taken by Johanna Gerard. We apologize for the mistakes.

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

Flora & Jetaun (Continued from page 2)

Klink is currently analyzing the potential to curb the cost of treating BES island patients abroad by flying in doctors. He agrees that more and more Lionfish are being identified in the Bonaire waters.

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The Second Hamburger BBQ competition will be held October 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
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

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.

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 Hollebone 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

Mangasina di Boneiru, B.V.
P.O. Box 50
Kaya Gob. Debrot 124B
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New arrivals

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON

Kaya Graveli 26, Kralendijk-Bonaire N.A. tel: 717 5107
Store hours Tuesday through Saturdays from 9 am-12:30 pm and 2:30 pm-6:30 pm.
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

This year’s Sixth Annual Study and Job Fair (beroepsmarkt) 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
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 “Googleing” 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 the entrance.

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/uknews/2011/05/European-Commission-Runin-lotions-could-kill-colourful-corals.html

Currently only biodegradable sunscreens are permitted in Cozumel’s marine park, Xcaret. http://www.harmonyhousebonaire.com

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 or spend 100% 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 pitance (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?

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 Ickach, Boston, MA

SURE CAUSE OF BAD SNORKELING VISIBILITY

WHY ARE CRUISE VISITORS SO PRIVILEGED?

Sure cause of bad snorkeling visibility: cruise ship tourists, sunny weather/those visiting the psychiatrists for depression and antidepressant treatment. Their behavior in the water makes the visibility poor or zero. It is not only a Bonaire problem. It is an environmental problem. The scientists have the same information.

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.

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 that disease process will begin. 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 Biochemical Cell Salts available worldwide under brand names like New Era and Highlands. These cell salts provide inorganic elements of a form that ensures easy absorption into the body and can be used safely by children and adults alike. Their use is 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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The way nature intended. Herbs from all over the world

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Herbal painkillers

Natural anti-inflammatory creams

Dengue Fever prevention & treatment

Mosquito anti-bite cream

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www.harmonyhousebonaire.com

Bonaire Reporter- Nov. 27-Dec. 11, 2009
DENGUE FEVER

If you have some or all of the following symptoms, you may have Dengue Fever.

- High Fever
- Aching joints and muscles
- Severe headache
- Pain behind the eyes
- Backache
- Nausea with possible vomiting

For more information and advice on treatment & prevention of Dengue Fever call the helpline.

DENGUE HELPLINE
+599 790 6500
Powered by Mio
**Wednesdays**

- **Sea Princess:** 1220-1900
- **Ocean Dream:** 1900-2200

**Thursday, December 10, 2009**

- **Sea Cloud II:** 0900-2400

**Thursday, December 10, 2009**

- **Ruby Princess:** 1100-1900

**Friday, December 11, 2009**

- **Enchantment of the Seas:** 0700-1300 / 1900

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**REGULAR EVENTS**

- By appointment - Rool Lameshoni Kunuku Park Tours $21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **Parke Publico** children’s play-ground open every day into the cooier evening hours.

- **Rincón Marshe** -6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candies, incense, drinks, music. Big Marchi first Saturday of the month.

- **Flea Market at Parke Publico** every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NA/5 per selling table (NA/5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call Vicky Bisesvar - 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 (NA/17.50) 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.

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

**Fradiays**

- **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 presen-tation about Buddy’s House Reef - pool bar Buddy Dive, 6:30-7 pm, 7-580

- **Tuesday – Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff**. Visit on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condos.

**Wednesday – Sea Turtle Conservation**

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**Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB**

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**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 790-7271.
- **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, NA/2.50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening’s location.
- **Darts Club** plays every other Sunday at City Cafè. 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 Domacalisi 516-4252.
- **Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeanette Rodriguez.
- **Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sahana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0170.
- **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. Call 717-2066.
- **Toastmasters Club** meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2933.

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**CURCH SERVICES**

- **Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papia-munta, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. 
- **Roman Catholic:** Kaya Cruziat, in Papiamun-ta, Sundays, 8:30 am.
- **Children’s church**, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk.
- **Sunday School,** Sundays, 4 pm, in Rin- con. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursday, 8 pm, in Kralendijk.
- **New Apostolic Church:** Centro di Baro Nord Sahina, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0739.
- **International Bible Church of Bonaire**, at SGI High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Oudolfinus, 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 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamunta, 717-8304.
- **Our Lady of Assumption in Antisol, Satur-day at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamun-ta on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asamblea de Dios):** Kaya Trion (Don Chefe). In English, Dutch & Papiamunta on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2919.

**Ministerio de Kristus Hesvs Services** Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamunta. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English:** A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexander #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 Sahana 826, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Ser-vices (Translation to English and Papia-munta upon request) 10-20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:28-12 noon Visitors Wel come: 701-9522 for Information

**Send event info to:** The Bonaire Reporter Email reporter@bonairereporter.com Tel:790-6518, 786-6125 or 790-8988

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**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 is: The Bonaire Reporter, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Neth. 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:** Sinemara Bennett, Stijn Brouwer, Christie Dovale, Ap van Eldik, Annie Hesse, Jack Horkheimer, Molly Bartikoski-Kearny, Greta Koosita, Ruben Petriese, Jane Townsend, Inge Vos, Pamela Williams Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

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**The Bonaire Reporter**

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Industria, behind the TIS supermarket. Bon Bini!

Friday 27th of November from 5 to 8 at our 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 Blerk, we were able to open our very own shop with more space and even more green at the end of the same property.

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.

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, animalshelter@flamingo.org. Greta Kooistra

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

10 Years For Green Label

This young lady, Finn, nine years old, is a volunteer at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Finn is a student at the Pelican School and you will find her here 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 Lagoon 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

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 Blerk, 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

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**SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE**

**Airlines**
Divi Divi Air. Bonaire’s “on time airline” with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curacao. Your first choice for island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

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

**Banks**
Maduro and Curie’s Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

**Beauty Parlor**
Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

**Bicycle / Scooter / Quads**
De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. Have your keys made here too.

**Contractor**
Equinox Bonaire — A USA licensed contractor for hotels, restaurants, residential. On Time — Done Right.

**Dining**

Pasa Bon Pizza is Bonaire’s best. Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. 780-1111. Call ahead to eat-in or take out, Next to Bistro (above)

Lunchroom de Bonairiaan — Breakfast & lunch to eat-in or take out, Next to Bistro (above).

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

**Diving**
ScubaVision - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire’s top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

Wanna Dive - They make diving fun. In town at City Cafe, at Eden Beach and Windsop Apartments.

**Garden Supplies and Services**
Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

**Health**
Harmony House — The herb and mineral center. Help your body heal itself.

**Investments**
Natural Way Health Store — The place where all the hard to find natural and healthy products are. Upstairs from Botika Bonaire, on Kaya Grandi.

**Home Care**
Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

**Internet and Cellular Service**
Digicel has the most subscribers, widest choice of calling plans and interesting phones. Visit their office on downtown Kaya Grandi and see for yourself.

** Pest Control**
Professional Pest Control. Call Peter to get rid of all those nasty pets like termites, fleas, ticks and ants that want to invade your home. Call now and save your investment in your home.

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

**Real Estate / Rental Agents**
Bonaire Sunshine Homes is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

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

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

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

Best Buddies and Pearls — Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t-shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

**Storage**
The Storehouse (Magazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage For Vehicles, Household Items, Divi And Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.

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

**Shipping**
Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb service?

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

**Wines**
Antillean Wine Company. You’ve tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industra 23, Mon-Sat. 9 am-noon.

To learn more about these businesses check their ad in this issue of The Reporter. Entire Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in the guides. Free!
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T he 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:
Antillene 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 NAƒ 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 NAƒ 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, kunuka 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@am.pwc.monor consult an accountant. G.D.
Bonaire/Kralendijk — Just recently, Julia Hollenbeck, president of “Wheel Me On,” an American nonprofit 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 Invacare 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 airport. Then we made a stop on the little invited Blossen on the track of Land Sailing Bonaire. We had a talk with Nelson Croft and Naomi from the Royal Bokart enterprise and we learned it was even possible for PWD using mobility devices like in wheelchairs to have fun in a two-seater Bokart. During that time, it was only me 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.

In wheelchairs 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 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 Jüri Brouwer
I n 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 ah 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 shower is frequently good before midnight. To see the first simply look toward the west just after sunset and you'll see. But like all meteor showers, the longer you stay out, the more meteors you'll see. The second best meteor shower may be the one 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 shower is frequently good before midnight. To see the first simply look toward the west just after sunset and you'll see. 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 its largest moons as they change place in orbit around the planet earth 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.
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 (NA$ 3,000 apiece) and two new racing Sunfish (NA$ 7,500). They need dagger boards and rudders. They are looking for 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 Tom Nuijten (tel. 717-4052, luuracassée@hotmail.com). • Laura DeSalvo

On Friday, November 6, 30 young indigenous fruit trees were planted in the area of the Tras Montaña botanical garden, Tera Bari. 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 kumukus 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 need little water and have fruits in the dry season. The trees that are being planted are: calbas, wayuka, watakeli, kibrakahacha, pal’ sia, taki, oliba, pal’ 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