

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE July 16-30, 2010, Year 17, Issue 14
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

Printed every fortnight

On-line every day, 24/7



Dia di Arte
page 10

Bonaire Reporter columnist Siomara Albertus with her mother, fabric artist Maria Johnita "Jo" Albertus-Marcera, at Dia di Arte.

The Police Traffic

Department recorded 368 collisions in the first six month of 2010, more or less two a day. There were 92 injuries, two of them serious, but no deaths. Most of the accidents were because drivers did not maintain a proper distance between vehicles and couldn't stop in time.

Thirty-four of the incidents were "hit and run," and 14 of these were solved by the Traffic Department. April (69) and March (65) were the peak months. Kaya Korona had the most incidents (39), followed by Gobernador N. Debrot Boulevard (20) and Julio A. Abraham Boulevard (13). Cross streets Kaya Grandi/Kaya Carlos A. Nicolaas, Kaya Korona/Kaya Neerlandia and Kaya Papa Cornes/Hanchi Amboina each had three accidents.

► **THE HAGUE--The Dutch First Chamber unanimously approved the package of 10 Kingdom Consensus Laws, including an amendment to the Charter, last Tuesday, essentially confirming the integration of the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba as public entities of the Netherlands and granting Curaçao and St. Maarten the status of country within the Kingdom effective October 10, 2010.**

The approval was overshadowed somewhat by the Dutch national soccer team reaching the finals of the World Cup in for the first time in 32 years by beating Uruguay. In fact, the latter may have helped get the Senate's approval in The Hague, as the laws were passed quickly before the game started, because all those involved undoubtedly wanted to watch the historic match as well.

► **THE HAGUE--Crown Prince Willem Alexander and his wife Princess Máxima will be in Curaçao for the formal**



ceremony to dismantle the Country of the Netherlands Antilles on October 10.

The royal couple announced this during the customary annual gathering with the Dutch media in Wassenaar, the Netherlands, last week.

The Crown Prince and Princess said the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles, the creation of Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten and the integration of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba as public entities of the Netherlands is an historic process. The royal pair said they considered it important to be present in Curaçao on October 10. They will probably not have time to visit all the Dutch Caribbean islands. Further details about their visit or plans to come to Bonaire were not available at press time.

► **The Bonaire Government has resolved to take the necessary diligence to promote accessibility to public buildings or services for disabled persons.** The Executive Council recognizes this as a problem area and a shortcoming in the service and asks the attention and cooperation of the service and department heads.

► **Under the new proposed education system, effective August 1, 2011, for the BES Islands students have a right to study on their own island, another BES island, another island belonging to the Kingdom (Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten), in the Netherlands, the US and countries in the**

(Continued on page 8)

► Dutch Minister of Transport

Camiel Eurlings (right in photo) launched the **renovation of the Flamingo Airport runway** on Monday, July 5.

The renovation is a collaboration between the Antillean Central Government and Island

Territory of Bonaire and the Netherlands and is funded by the Dutch government through the Ministry of Transport. The launch took place on the airport's runway with the symbolic handing over of a shovel by Minister Eurlings to George Soliana, Director of Bonaire Holding Maatschappij NV (BHM).

► **According to a report by the Netherlands Airport Consultant (NACO) the Flamingo Airport runway is in poor condition.** The last time the runway was renovated it was paid for by the Island Government and served as the spark that ignited Bonaire's economic recovery but depleted the funds for island road repair. The contracts are signed and the renovation will begin early next year and require several weeks. The airport will not close during the renovation. In recent decades, Flamingo Airport has grown from a small airport with a runway of 1430 meters to a more useful airport with a runway 2880 meters long.



Bonaire Government photo

► **In this image made from television, Sergei Gorbunov helps Boniface, the dachshund (tekkel) dog, as he is learning how to**

scuba-dive, in a special scuba diving suit before an underwater dive in the Pacific Ocean on a beach near the settlement of Slavyanka, some 50 km (31 miles) from Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok. Boniface is learning how to scuba dive in a specially made dive suit, complete with helmet, and he seems excited when being prepared for his dive.



Internet photo

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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
Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,
On-line Every day, 24/7
Next edition printing on
July 27, 2010

Story and Ad deadline:
July 24, 2010, 12 noon



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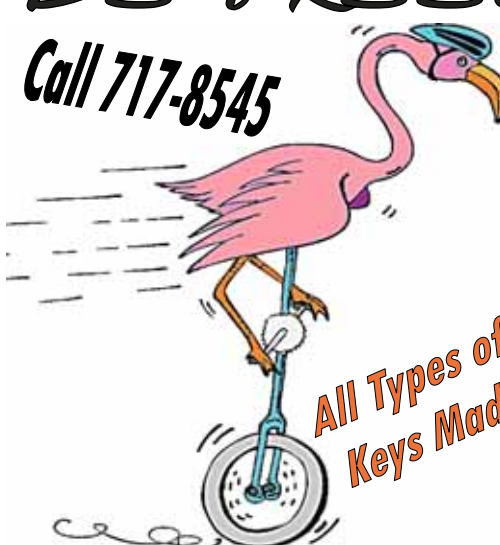
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While not totally pollution free Bonaire's new power plant meets current European pollution standards. And in normal operation, with much of the island's electricity supplied by the wind turbines, it will make Bonaireans one of the least polluting users of electricity in the world.

Analysis of the specifications for the engines that run the generators show that the concern of some environmentalists that the smokestack emissions of the plant exceeded European standards is unfounded.

The huge MAN engines that are the backbone of the power plant are designed to be capable of operating on a variety of fuels from low-cost, high-energy HFO (Heavy Fuel Oil also known as Residual fuel-Bunker C) to the new Bio Fuels.

Using those fuels the emissions of the power plant meet the 1998 World Bank Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook, Thermal Power: Guidelines for New

Plants of Less Than 50MW among other up-to-date standards for noise, vibration, sewage, nitrites and others.

An electric generating plant can have other pollution factors beyond what comes out of its stacks. There are considerations about delivery of the fuel to the plant (by truck from BOPEC), the disposal of its waste products from the fuel pre-treatment operation to lubrication waste of the engines themselves (to BOPEC for off-island disposal). On Bonaire even the disposal of waste oil from automobile oil-changes is government regulated

Heat pollution of the sea from a power plant's cooling water is not an issue because the plant's coolant is circulated through a radiator much like our automobile engines.

In future editions *The Reporter* will have stories about the "wind farm," power distribution and other interesting aspects of our island's new electric power system. □ G.D.

Yes or No But Not Nothing

Editorial



The are really three choices for a voter to make in the upcoming September Referendum: Yes, No, and Not Vote. The Referendum, which cannot, in any case, change the course set for Bonaire to become a "special" municipality of the Netherlands, is to get the opinion of the local people about the deal struck with the Netherlands that integrates Bonaire with Holland. The voters will be able to answer Yes or No to the statement: "I agree with the content and outcome of negotiations on the planned political structure of Bonaire." All political parties on the Bonaire Island Council voted unanimously to hold a Referendum.

But the new-born Bonaire political party, the PHU (*Partido pro Hustisia & Union-Justice & Unity Party*) is advising Bonaireans to boycott the Referendum. Boycotting the Referendum, they imply, could make as effective a statement as a Yes or No since 50% of the eligible voters must take part in the Referendum to make it valid. The PHU says not voting would be a protest against the deception and confusion sowed by the political parties in power, the PDB and UPB.

The new PHU Party argues that the Yes option means that one concurs with the whole agreement. It's not a good idea to say Yes, they say, because even the experts do not know what the new structure will mean exactly. Nobody has any practical experience with the new system, they add. But they also advise not to say No because No rejects the Netherlands. The PHU wants to integrate with the Netherlands. But they

want a better agreement and true equality for the BES Island people.

Not voting, they say, will "punish" the officials who have spun the deal to integrate Bonaire into Holland on October 10, 2010, because if fewer than 50% of the eligible voters vote, the referendum is invalid. The Referendum is tentatively set for Friday, September 3, 2010.

The Reporter believes that all eligible voters should choose Yes or No. It's wrong to ignore an agreement drafted by conscientious people over the last five years because "even the experts don't know." A thousand opinions are not worth the results of a test of the real thing. Besides, built into the existing agreement is another Referendum in five years to assess the results of the integration.

In addition, who can say that a low voter turnout would be a protest. It could be the result of a poor campaign to explain the meanings of a Yes or No vote to the people, or even bad weather.

In a democracy the right to vote is the main tool of the people. Use it wisely. □ G.D.

Preserving Island Culture Through Language

Thousands of languages spoken by small numbers of people, including many of the Creole languages born in the last centuries of human history, are facing extinction. But Papiamentu, a Creole language influenced over the centuries by African slaves, Sephardic merchants and Dutch colonists, spoken by about 250,000 people on the ABC islands, may be an exception. But compared with many of the world's other Creoles, it shows rare signs of vibrancy and official acceptance.

Most of Curaçao's newspapers publish in Papiamentu. Music stores do brisk business in CDs recorded in Papiamentu by musicians like the protest singer Oswin Chin Behilia or the jazz vocalist Izaline Calister.

Of 30 or so radio stations on the islands, nearly all broadcast in Papiamentu. Legislators in Parliament debate in Papiamentu. Bookstores sell novels and poetry collections in Papiamentu. Turn on the television and there, too, one hears Papiamentu.

Transforming status quo into law, officials recognized Papiamentu as an official language in 2007, with Dutch and English.

With the Dutch Antilles fragmenting into three quasi-independent islands and three integrated into the Netherlands, Papiamentu's viability is even more stressed.

"While English and French Creoles get attention, the extension of Papiamentu into different domains like writing, education and policy is incredibly high," said Bart Jacobs, a Dutch linguist who studies Papiamentu. "This bodes very well for the language's chances to survive, and possibly even thrive well into the future."

Papiamentu still has a way to go in usurping Dutch from some spheres. Curaçao's laws are still written in Dutch. Some schools start out teaching children in Papiamentu, but then transition to Dutch, bowing to the economic opportunities the Netherlands still provide for many islanders.

Papiamentu's origins fascinate linguists; it emerged in a Dutch colony, but its core vocabulary is a mix of Portuguese and Spanish. (Dutch Creoles crystallized elsewhere in the Dutch empire.)

Some scholars say Papiamentu evolved from a Portuguese-based lingua franca once used in West Africa, developing further in the 17th century when Curaçao was an entrepôt for South America's slave trade and a cosmopolitan Dutch outpost settled in part by Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking Jews. Whatever its origins, Papiamentu today evokes a bit of the rhythm of Brazilian Portuguese, sprinkled with words from Dutch and English but also largely from the Spanish of Venezuela.

Papiamentu's vibrancy is related to the creation in 1998 of the *Fundashon pa Planifikashon di Idioma*, a language institute that maintains an orthography. Papiamentu also thrives on the street level, with immigrants from Haiti and Suriname often picking up



the language quickly and using it instead of Dutch.

Some linguists say the language thrives because of its use in trade and the relative prosperity of Papiamentu-speaking islands, which have per capita incomes of more than \$16,000 a year.

Officials here said Papiamentu will keep its official status when the Netherlands Antilles is dissolved in October, a largely anti-climactic political rearrangement. Curaçao and the Dutch half of St. Maarten will become independent nations in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while three other islands become the equivalent of Dutch municipalities. The Netherlands will continue to oversee the defense and foreign affairs of all the islands involved, as it does now with Aruba.

On Bonaire the "Akademia Papiamentu," that consists of Geraldine Dammers, Delno L.A. Tromp, Sedney Marten, Jeanine Wong

Loi Sing and Aishel Marcelina, are fighting in conjunction with some Papiamentu organizations in the Netherlands to have Papiamentu also recognized as an official language in the Dutch Kingdom the same as the Frisian language.

For some on the ABCs, the secret of Papiamentu's survival lies in its use as a language of both resistance and renewal.

Helmin Wiels, 51, leader of the Curaçao leftist party *Pueblo Soberano*, which favors a complete break from the Netherlands, said that if Curaçao were to achieve full independence, its official language should be Papiamentu, along with English and Spanish. As for Dutch, he said: "No way. Dutch is a dead language the same as Greek or Latin."

"The preservation of Papiamentu would allow us to absorb the influences of our South American brothers," he said, "while keeping American brothers," he said, "while keeping alive that which makes us unique."

■ A version of this article appeared in print on July 5, 2010, on page A7 of the New York Times. Special thanks to Dr. Delno Tromp for calling this to our attention.

In September 2010 the "Akademia Papiamentu" will be having a night of music, dance, poems and stories. Watch *The Reporter* for the exact time and place. The theme of the evening will be "Papiamentu den Kaya."

For more information email: akademia-papiamentu@gmail.com

On the Island Since... September 2005 - Lynne and Walter Bentsen

“When we got married, my next door neighbor in New Jersey – who owns the Golden Reef Inn on Bonaire – gave us two weeks vacation on Bonaire as a wedding present. We’d never heard of Bonaire before. When we got here it was vacation. We were already divers and we were enjoying the diving, and Lynne said, ‘I don’t think I would want to live here.’ That was the first week. The second week she bought a house and I said ‘I guess we’re moving, eh?’

We are both nurses. Lynne is a nurse practitioner, which in the States is the next best thing to a doctor, and I am a critical care registered nurse. Our plan was to work three months and then spend three months here. We came down for the first three months, and at the end of that period we said, ‘Why are we leaving?’ And... we didn’t. We never regretted a minute of it. This is home!”

“The reef is not as pristine as it was. There’s more trash, more algae. It worries me tremendously. Let’s face it, if you lose the reef, you lose the tourists and you lose the income.”

“We sold everything in the US,” Lynne says. “I’m not really retired age wise but work wise I am. This year I could officially retire in the States, but I quit working officially five years ago. In the US we wouldn’t be able to retire; we couldn’t afford it. Everyone’s got new cars, new wardrobes and they spend their money on things that they don’t need – on things they don’t want.

The first Christmas we spent here was just wonderful. It wasn’t all about gift giving; it was about the birth of Jesus Christ. It was about what it’s supposed to be about. We used to spend hundreds of dollars on gifts for friends and relatives, but they didn’t need those presents. Here it’s less commercial at least. We’re living a simpler lifestyle.

Life changed a lot; we are not into buying things anymore. We get up in the morning and say, ‘What are we going to do today?’ Although... it’s filling rapidly! Walter is a dive master and we both do volunteer work for Dive

Friends Bonaire. We help them out with the snorkel tours when the cruise ships are in. I volunteer at the Animal Shelter and we both volunteer with STINAPA. So far we have removed 45 Lion Fish. The total that has been caught is around 300. I wouldn’t say we’re the best,” she laughs, “but we’ve probably gotten the most! The problem with the Lion Fish is that they don’t travel. They came here because their eggs did. Catching the Lion Fish will be a forever program; it’s like trying to keep the ants out of your house.

Another thing we’re involved in is the underwater sensors all around the island that are monitoring the quality of the water. Every week the sensors have to be cleaned and read and we are one of many teams doing so. Every week we do the same location, Windsock.

Elsmarie Beukenboom (head of STINAPA) is our neighbor, so whatever comes up we do voluntarily for STINAPA. From clean-

ups to counting - we participate. We think STINAPA is doing a wonderful job!

We are both involved in our church, the International Bible Church of Bonaire. Right now we are meeting at SGB high school on Sundays, but we’re building our new building in Hato behind the new MCB building. Walter is the volunteer supervisor and worker – oh yeah – he’s had a lot of constructing background in the US.”

Walter continues, “Construction here is very different from that in the US. With this building we’re blending Bonairean construction methods

with US methods. We started building in November 2009 and I think we’re doing quite well.” He laughs. “We just ran out of money, so donations are appreciated, but two years ago we had no money, no building, no ground...nothing. Now we have the ground and two-thirds of the building built!”

“Our church has a regular attendance,” Lynne fills in, “between 70 and 90 people. So, we’ve been extremely fortunate with donations and work donations. People donate their time; it’s very heartwarming. We had four guys from the US and Can-

(Continued on page 5)



Walter and Lynne Bentsen with their dogs Sophie and Cheeré

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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)
 ada who came down here for two weeks, just pouring cement. And we have all nationalities attending our church: Bonairean, Chinese, South American, Dutch, Surinamese, American, Canadian and everybody in between.

One of the reasons we are building the church is for community outreach programs— for everybody, not just for people in the church – such as diabetic education, AA meetings, language lessons, family counseling and drugs counseling. Our part will be diabetic education and other health issues.

Both of us have always worked full-time, all our lives, even when I was raising my children. Besides his work as a nurse, Walter had a construction company with his brother. The brother still has it. When we bought this house, it was just the house; it was complete. Then we realized you live outdoors on Bonaire and so we build the pavilion. We both have children, not together. Walt has two boys and one girl and I have two girls and a son-in-law. My oldest daughter is a school-teacher in Texas. She's a cat lady and she comes here all the time. The youngest owns the townhouse with us that we have here. She's a flight attendant with South-West Airlines and they come once a year. Her husband always says, 'the best vacation is to go and see my in-laws!' They're all divers."

Lynne and Walter Bentsen are energetic people, hard working and very much involved in the island's well-being. They're the kind of people who are a valuable asset to the island.

"I think it's important that people do volunteer work on the island," *Lynne*

says, "so it gets them informed about what's going on and it makes them feel they're doing something to help better the situation.

I'm hoping the island stays the way it is. We have the opportunity to talk to the tourists, and what they say is that they like is that it's not so built up and not so commercial and they like the fact that the people are friendly and that it's safe and clean.

Friendliness was also the reason that I liked the island so much. People went out of their way to help. For the most part it's still like that. We have great neighbors and we know a lot of people from the church and the volunteer groups – all nationalities. One of the things we're very unaware of here is nationality. I've lived in the south of the US most of my life and one of the things that is not an issue here is color – people are just people. That's cool, it really is!

Living down here is a wonderful life. The only thing I don't like about Bonaire," *she smiles*, "is that people come and go, especially the young. You start liking someone and then they leave. That's a pity."

"The thing I enjoy the most," *Walt says*, "is the diving and the relaxed atmosphere. When I come home I take a siesta at 2 o'clock and I got used to that real quick!" "I just love everything about the island," *Lynne says*, "probably the people most." "Our plan is to be buried here," *Walter grins*. "I tell my friends at the dive shop, 'You mix my ashes with concrete, write my name on it, attach the dive flag and put it down 100 feet and then when you go diving just wave to me as you go by!'



Claudia and Johnny Randolph, Michael and Tim Watford, Bob Lassiter and Walter and Lynne at the church building site

But," *he laughs*. "I'm in no rush with that! No rush!

We're very happy here; there's no place in the US that has the climate, the people and the water all in one place. But in the last three or four years I've seen changes and my biggest concern is the clarity of the water. It has gone down from 200 feet plus to 50 feet, a dramatic change. It's still good compared to the rest of the world but not compared to five years ago here on Bonaire. The reef is not as pristine as it was. There's more trash, more algae. It worries me tremendously. Let's face it, if you lose the reef, you lose the tourists and you lose the income. People don't realize how much you need the water and the reef and that's why STINAPA is so important. Also, construction did a lot of

damage. The land clearing increases the run off and the run off contaminates the ocean water. The sewage plant is another important issue that we need to get done so the black water doesn't run into the sea anymore. You know what, I think we're turning into environmentalists! Well, I love Bonaire and I don't want to see it ruined. You can't sit at home and enjoy the island – you can't do that. You need to get involved!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



					
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Hard Times For Baby Loras

Every week is different for the researchers during the Lora breeding season. Some are more pleasant than others.

The past few weeks have been the busiest, because when chicks start to hatch we need to have eyes everywhere! During the egg incubation period of 27 days and the chick brooding stage, the female parrot only leaves the nest briefly to be fed by her partner. Every pair has their own routine, and some pairs are earlier than others. Waiting quietly outside a nest for this to happen is not the most comfortable experience, especially with the recent erratic weather; there are an abundance of mosquitoes and "limbi-limbis" (those annoying little bugs that don't bite but go in your eyes, nose and mouth).

Fortunately, that time of the season has come to an end. The chicks are now big enough that they don't need mum to keep them warm and they can entertain themselves in the nest. The chicks now are growing up fast and are beginning to look like real parrots. Our work becomes a bit easier now, as we don't have to wait for the female parrot to leave the nest, so there are no time restrictions on nest visits.

However, our work isn't always happy and carefree. The season always has its ups and downs, and it is now that all of the chicks have hatched that they are at their most vulnerable and we start to lose them. This is always sad and demoralising for the team when we come across an empty nest, or if a chick has died in the nest.

Empty nests indicate that the chicks have been lost to predators. These predators are introduced species such as feral cats and rats and cause enormous problems in the field of conservation, not only on Bonaire but on many other island ecosystems around the world.

If a chick has died in the nest, it is often very difficult to tell the cause unless we visit the nest every day. Some chicks die from starvation, possibly disease, and even from infanticide by other Loras that also want to compete for the nest site.

Historic deforestation and development



R. Evans photo

on Bonaire has meant that many important Lora nest sites and habitat have been lost. As a result it is common to see pairs of Lora fighting over a well sought after nest site at the beginning of the breeding season!

With so many difficulties to overcome to make it out of the nest and into the wild, it's no wonder that these birds are vulnerable to the threat of extinction. They need as much protection as possible from the people of Bonaire when they leave the nest to ensure the survival of the species in what could be its most important stronghold.

This week, Masters students Danni Parks and Matt Richards are leaving the team and returning to their studies in the UK. We would like to thank them for their dedication and great contribution to the project, and we wish them all the best in the future! □

Rhian Evans

Evans is leading the Parrot-watch project team in its 5th year on Bonaire.



Winners Who Have Lost!



Congratulations to Weight Loss Winners (left to right): William Low, Sharitee Rosalia (Miss Bonaire Beach Body-see page 15), Coach Tina Woodley, Commissioner of Health Marugia Janga, Lou Lea Lounig, Ina Faber and Ayron Chirino and son. Not pictured: Hans Obdeijn, Kristine Racina-Obdeijn, Marike Botterop, Martin van Bekum, Miriam Geerlings, Eder Bernabela and Ruanly LaCruz.

Last Saturday, Coach Tina Woodley of Bon Bida Spa and Gym awarded certificates and gifts to five of a total of 12 persons for their "Outstanding Performance in Body Weight Reduction." Weight losses were from more than 6 kilo to more than 22 kilos!

Tina and Commissioner of Health, Marugia Janga, congratulated the winners for their intense commitment to their fitness training and for changing their eating habits. According to Tina, the winners had consultations and nutritional talks with her, but, as she says, "They have taken responsibility for themselves. I act as an advisor and give them suggestions, and I never use the word, 'diet'!"

One of the winners, Ina Faber, who's lost 20 kilos in the last 5 ¼ months, credits Tina's guidance as one of the main reasons for her success. "She helped me change my food habits, changed some of my old fashioned ideas about food, encouraged me to do more fitness training on the machines, set up a special program for me and she's so attentive; she keeps checking on you." Another winner, the new "Miss Bonaire Beach Body," Sharitee Rosalia, has been working since early February to lose more than 10 kilos. A physical therapist, she also works at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.

Does this program work? Just take a look at the photo and see all those very proud faces and new and fit bodies. ■ Laura DeSalvo

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Letters to the Editor

CRIME LAMENTS

Dear Editor:
On June 6th I flew from Bonaire to New York on Continental. Sadly, very sadly, as I was getting to my seat I overheard three different conversations about Bonaire from people who just vacationed there. Not one of the conversations was about the diving, the clear water, the wonderful reefs or the sunshine. All three were about the theft and crime on Bonaire. I overheard one person say they doubted they would ever go back. Is this the Bonaire we all want? When will something serious get done?



Internet photo

BB vehicle (from the water), once we found white paint all over the inside of the car (after observing a worker in painter's clothes running away from our car at Punt Vierkant, waving at us), and this most recent trip we were at Nukove and had all of our clothes pilfered through, our water stolen (on a very hot day), and some food stolen. I just think this is the lowest-to steal water from someone. Are not people brought up to be respectful of others' things here? I can't blame everyone- but it is obviously tolerated. We have had sunglasses stolen, a dive mask case stolen - nothing valuable- but they were ours. In 2011, things are going to get tighter financially in the US than ever before, and people will not choose to visit places that are a hassle or they feel that their belongings are in jeopardy. We love Bonaire- but this needs to stop- we feel violated, even though they never steal anything really important. This should not be happening at all. Small webcams, solar powered, at some of these dive sites might cut down on the problem, just hide them. Then, Bonaire needs to start punishing these people...

A Bonaire lover, but a concerned traveler.

Mrs. Terry Sherman
Bellingham, Washington

Dear Editor,
I am a diver, a frequent visitor to Bonaire, and in general, love this small island. Usually, the peace and rest I get when I choose to vacation here is worth the long trip from the far north of the United States, but due to people going through my rental truck almost daily while I dive is disheartening. I stay in a small Inn, dive with a small shop, and rent a dive truck while on the island. I may not spend huge amounts of money when I come here, but I am thinking of diving somewhere else next time. I will be re-considering my Bonaire vacation plans in the future because I am tired of having my things rummaged through and ransacked every time I go in for a dive. I would never go through a stranger's car simply because I knew they were not from my country. Now, my husband and I are not dumb enough to leave anything of value in the car, but twice we have actually observed people looking in our

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... Lake Bangweulu, Zambia

Ronald van Giessen, who splits his time between Bonaire and Holland, writes, "A few weeks ago I visited Zambia in Southern Africa for a 'safari' holiday. We had a wonderful 'Amazing Zambia' experience. We travelled from west to east, from north to south and visited Lusaka, the capital. We 'met' hippos, elephants, a leopard, a lion family and many, many birds. And we really met Zambian people in their villages. The picture with *The Reporter* was taken at Lake Bangweulu in the north: 800 km north of Lusaka." ■



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DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Caribbean. The amount of finance support is both dependent on the type of education (SBO or higher education) and the individual country of study.

The study for the SBA (level 1 and 2) consists of a grant with a loan, if needed. For SBA-3 and level 4 and higher, a four-year loan is available, with a three-year extension. The loan is converted into a grant if the student gets a diploma within 10 years.

In addition, students from the BES islands get an allowance when they study in the European part of the Netherlands. This allowance is intended for travel, equipment, establishing themselves, bridging financing and guidance in the Netherlands. Special arrangements are available for low income families.

► **Several public information meetings have been conducted by the Regional Service Centre (RSC) about the introduction of the dollar on January 1, 2011.** Attendees were informed about the expected changes with the transition from the guilders to the dollar. Local representatives from various sectors were available to explain and answer questions. The education campaign is planned to continue

► **WILLEMSTAD — Insel Air wants to fly twice a week from Curaçao to Charlotte, North Carolina, starting November 25th.** Insel Air General director Albert Kluyver recently signed an interline agreement with US Airways. Why Charlotte? With its huge hub in Charlotte, US Airways offers connections with all parts of the US. Most cities in the US can be reached from Charlotte the same day. Besides Charlotte, Insel Air also wants to start flights this year to **Barquisimeto and Caracas** in Venezuela as well as **Bogotá and Medellín** in Colombia.

► **GENEVA--La Niña is likely to cool the tropical Pacific in coming months,** a phenomenon which usually causes stronger monsoons across Asia and eastern Australia and **promotes the development of storms, including hurricanes in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean,** the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said last week.

El Niño, the opposite phenomenon which warms the sea, rapidly dissipated in early May after prevailing since late 2009.

► **Ecopower Bonaire's \$78 million wind-diesel project near BOPEC is still not on line.** Technical problems with the MAN engines remain to be solved, but other elements of the system, including the wind turbines are functional. No estimate is available on when it will begin supplying electric power to Bonaire. Output from the 10MW wind and 14MW system will supply power to Water and Energy Company (WEB) which will distribute it to customers.

According to our sources the Island Government is awaiting resolution of all problems before accepting turnover of the plant. Dutch bank Rabobank, which provided project financing, wants to sell the plant as soon as possible. Ecopower was selected in 2006 through an international tender and signed a 15-year agreement with WEB to provide electricity to the island. *The Reporter's* series about the power plant continues on page 3. Bonaire's power demand is currently being met with containerized diesel units provided by the Aggreko Company and is not reliable.

► **Have you ever been to Anguilla? It's another special island, like Bonaire. Now, with Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations you can be there easily,** leaving Bonaire

At 8 am and arriving by noon. It's a truly laid back island with magnificent beaches, top cuisine, where the rich and famous go to unwind. Now you can too. Contact Ann Phelan at ann@antiquacaribbean.com for Island Hopper Vacation Packages to Anguilla. More information on page 11.

► **With increasing rain there are more mosquitoes on Bonaire. In some years there have been outbreaks of Dengue fever. Now scientists in Britain and Thailand may have discovered why people who get infected again and again by Dengue viruses suffer more severe symptoms like hemorrhagic fever and shock, and sometimes die.** Transmitted by mosquitoes, there are four different dengue types. People who are infected again and again by a different Dengue type tend to get severely ill

In a study published in *Science* last month, researchers said they analyzed blood samples donated by infected volunteers and found the human immune system produces a type of antibody called prM to fight off the Dengue virus. But the researchers wrote in a Statement, "Rather than protecting the body from the second infection, these prM antibodies help the virus to establish itself."

► **The indifference of some mosquitoes to the common insect repellent DEET is due to an easily inherited genetic mosquito trait that can be rapidly evolved by later generations, a new study suggests.**

By selective breeding, James Logan and colleagues at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, UK, created strains of *Aedes aegypti* (carriers of Dengue fever) mosquitoes in which half of the females do not respond to DEET (N,N-diethyl-metotoluamide) -- the most common insect repellent. Their findings were reported last month in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

► **Correction:** In the *On The Island Since* article about Edshel Martha in the last edition of *The Reporter* we said that his daughter, Shami, was working at t Aquamarine School. **Actually she works at he Acquamarina Boutique** in Playa.

► **Curaçao will make the changeover from analog to digital television on January 1, 2013.** Bonaire currently has no broadcast TV stations but three cable TV providers. Some Bonaireans use large antennas to receive broadcasts from Curaçao and even Venezuela. Current technology TVs will need an adapter to see the new signals. In Europe the adapter costs €8.

► **Read your favorite Bonaire English language newspaper anywhere there's an Internet connection.** Just click on: www.bonairereporter.com. The on-line edition has all the same stories and advertisements plus a "Raw News" section with the latest Bonaire developments. **It's still free too...** although donations are very welcome.

► **Don't forget to tell our advertisers, "I heard about you in The Reporter." It's their support that keeps The Reporter free.** ■ G./L. D.

In Fond Memory

Albert Romijn, the Managing Director of the Habitat Management Group passed away early Tuesday morning , June 29, following a long illness. Albert was highly respected for his business competence and much loved for his good nature as well as a teasing sense of humor. About 20 years ago he arrived in Bonaire from Curaçao to work in accounting at Captain Don's Habitat Resort. He soon became the resort's manager and was responsible for several innovations and expansions. Several years later he transferred to Curaçao to oversee the opening of the new Habitat resort on that island. He was planning to return to live on Bonaire following his sons' graduations in Curaçao this month. He's survived by his wife Esther, and sons Christopher and Dary. We mourn the loss of a great friend of ours and many, many others. A memorial service will be held in St Bernardus R.C. Church on Monday, July 12, at 4 pm. **In lieu of flowers friends may contribute to the Princess Wilhelmina Cancer Fund.** ■G./L.D.



BonQuiz #33



Fire pit for making charcoal
 Christie Davale photo

Home Made Charcoal

Ever get a whiff of a smoky aroma as you drive through the *mondi*? This typical smell is usually from the smoldering burning of a specific tree that has been used for centuries on plantations to make charcoal. The great thing about this particular tree is that it is never felled or chopped down and killed to make charcoal. Because it forms big new branches every five years or so, only the old branches are pruned, cut up and used to make this high quality charcoal. The resulting charcoal does not pop and crackle while being burned and imparts a special flavor when used on the BBQ or on the open fire or *konfó*. It is still produced today by allowing the wood to smolder underground for several days. Then it is ready to be bagged and sold in big burlap sacks. During the plantations days on Bonaire, it's been reported that 80,000 bags of charcoal were exported from the island.

Q) What is the common name of this tree?

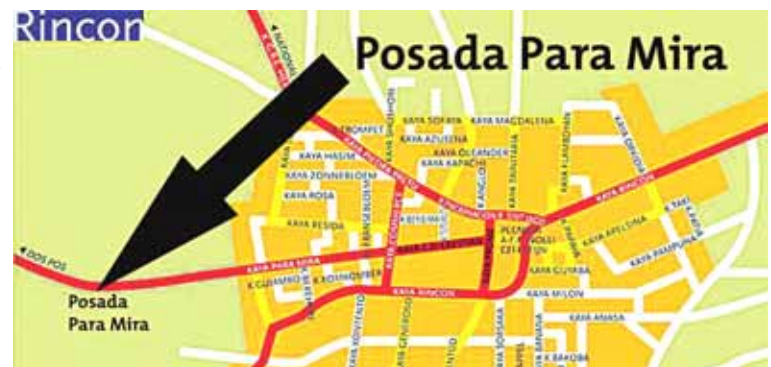
Answer on page 17

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website:

IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456
 Email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com.



► A unique new party place opened recently near Rincon. Posada Para Mira is located at the highest point on the road to Rincon- Dos Pos road overlooking the Rincon valley. Posada Para Mira specializes in Krioyo Kushina



(Creole Cooking). Here you can enjoy traditional dishes like *Sopi di Yuana* (Iguana Soup) but less exotic local dishes as well. From now through August Posada Para Mira is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Posada Para Mira may be booked for private parties, receptions or business meetings. Want to know more or reserve? Please call 569-7060 or email Jovianka.Clarenda@posadaparamira.live.nl.



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

There Is A New Kid In Town Ford Transit Connect

The 73rd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

Hato/Bonaire –

In the last week of June 2010 the first Ford Transit was imported to Bonaire. The first Ford Transit? Well, to be honest, there is one more Transit on the island. This vehicle is probably a Mark I, produced in the mid 60s in the Langley factories in Berkshire, England. (In this former Second World War aircraft factory they produced Hawker Hurricane fighters those days./jb) Transits have been produced in Albion, Belgium, Turkey and China! This very, very first Ford Transit is parked in a fenced part of the far outback in between Yatu Baku and Bará di Karta, a location along one of the very many unpaved roads on the island of Bonaire, somewhere between Playa/Kralendijk and the rough East Coast. The mid 60s panel van is enjoying a very long sleep, and bit by bit all materials are being given back to earth.

But the brand new Ford Transit was produced in 2008 in Turkey, and the proud Dutch owner shipped it to our island where he is going to construct a small house. Now he temporarily lives in the neighborhood of Hato.

This Ford Transit Connect 230 TDCi is a compact panel van developed by Ford Europe. The car was introduced in 2002. The vehicle became very popular and was awarded "Van of the year 2004." In 2010 the car was awarded "North American Truck of the Year." If you like compact vans with a lot of space you can only fall in love with this white-sprayed spacious creature. And this is exactly what the owner did. He bought the vehicle with only some 25,000 kilometers on the odometer. This model is a little bit stretched and the roof is higher than the standard model. The car is equipped with a very smooth running 1.8 Duratorq TDCi diesel engine, producing 90 kilowatts. (It took a

lot of time to find out how to open the bonnet from the outside./jb) A five-speed gearbox delivers the power to the front wheels. The four wheels of the Transit are protected by effective wheel locks. Tire size is: 195/65R15. The Transit has power windows, power brakes, power steering, air conditioning, cruise control, a radio/CD-player and multi adjustable seats. A very comfortable cockpit. This car still smells like new! But it is the inner space of the vehicle that intrigued the new owner. Two passenger doors, two rear doors (with two wipers) and an immense sliding door on the right hand side of the body give access to a lot of room. It is even possible to mount a sleeping bed with the length of two meters in the rear of the vehicle. The car is fully upholstered with isolation material, and the two rear windows and the window of the sliding door are blinded. It is possible to blind the side windows and the front window with custom made aluminum covered sheets to protect the interior of the spacious vehicle against the light and the heat of the sun. Low energy LED lights are installed on the ceiling rows.

There are fantasies about installing a small kitchen in the car. A kitchen with running water, a stove and a little cooling box. This will enable the owner in the future to travel and live and sleep in the car. Latin America is already se-



Ford Transit Connect



Ford Transit in disguise-not on Bonaire

ducing. We are looking forward for the first report about his travel experiences. Congratulations with the new Ford Transit. Fantasies are important. Keep on building!

■ Story & photos by J@n Brouwer



Don's Captain



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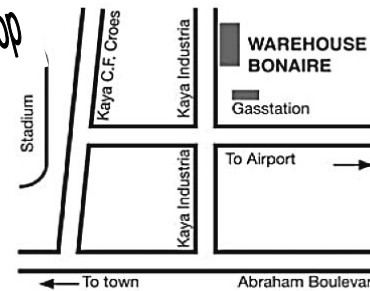
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18th Dia di Arte - 2010



The talented Manuela Winklaar with some of her vibrant landscapes, capturing the spirit of the island...



Lovely ladies in traditional dresses

Cover Story

Bonaire's 18th Dia di Arte (Art Day) was held on July 4th at Wilhelmina Park. It was packed with Bonairean artists, musicians and writers, together with some international stars. There were exhibitions of art, local dancing as well as painting for the children. All day there were live bands, singers and dancers performing on the stage. You could buy recordings of the music, paintings and handcrafts, sample delicious Creole dishes, seafood, home-made candy, cakes, drinks, and much more. ■ L.D.



Nochi Coffie, a Bonaire Living Treasure



Art Day is ALWAYS for kids

Thanks to the Bonaire Foundation for Art and Culture for a really great day



Jan Art's Janice Huckaby, as usual, had one of the most popular displays



Monique Reekers showed her watercolors and more

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Nutritional Center, *Essence*, Opens



In their new shop, Stephanie and Phil Bennett

Essence opened on July 1, as a nutritional center, concentrating on awareness of lifestyle and diet and the effect this has on your health. *Essence* is owned and operated by Stephanie Bennett, well known to readers of *The Reporter* for her articles on health and the human body, "Body Talk." In the shop you can find 28 different types of teas and whimsical soaps, perfect for yourself or gift giving. *Essence* is in Antriol, corner of Kaya Papa Cornes and Kaya Gloria. Open 8am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday. Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Telephone 788-0030. ■ L.D.

Proof: Groupers Eat Lionfish



Apparently our native predators here are not so powerless against the lionfish invasion. Maljkovic and Van Leeuwen from Simon Frazer University, Canada, reported on "Predation on the invasive red lionfish by native groupers in the Bahamas" in the *Coral Reefs* journal in 2008. Their investigation was driven by finding a lionfish inside a tiger grouper and by anecdotal reports from fishers about native groupers regularly preying on the lionfish. Subsequently, they dissected five Nassau groupers and found that two of them had lionfish in their stomachs. The larger of the two groupers was 482 mm (19") in length and contained a 137 mm (5.4") long lionfish. According to a photograph provided with the article the lionfish seemed to be swallowed head first.

Here is the link to the article: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/14177q71283p0t67>. ■ Genady Filkovsky

Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations

Island Hopper Vacation Packages to Anguilla, BWI

Anguilla is best known for its 33 beaches, gourmet and West Indian Cuisine, snorkeling and honeymoons. Depart Bonaire at 8:00 AM and be sipping rum punches by 12:00 on your own sandy beach. Anguilla is 20 minute by ferry from Sint Maarten. It's the island where the rich and famous escape to enjoy the laid back charm. Choose a low key hotel or a luxury villa.

Contact the Anguilla specialists at 800-219-0118 (US Toll Free), On Bonaire call 786-3134 or email ann@antiguacaribbean.com today!

Soccer Training



In keeping with the World Cup craze that swept Bonaire, Anouk Hoogendijk, a star of the Dutch football (soccer) Federation, conducted a clinic for youngsters between 8 and 13 at the Johan Cruyff Court in Tera Kora. The NISB (Nederlands Instituut voor Sport en Beweging) supported the clinic. Anouk and her students are shown above.



July-Ann Frans and Junior Koeks were named the Queen and King of Music at a recent SEBIKI event to introduce children and their parents to various musical instruments at Mangazina di Rei. For information about the family programs contact SEBIK at 717-2436 or visit the office at Kaya P.P.Silië #2 ■

Shaëdra Baromeo

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Every Sunday through Tuesday	From now through Spring 2011	Scientology ship <i>Freewinds</i>	Arrives 0630 Departs 2200	150

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Until September 30 -Bonaire Dive into Summer.

July 12 - 17 - 1st IFCA Windsurf Slalom World Championship - A week-long event with professional competitions, happy hours, BBQs and more. At Sorobon

Saturday, July 17 - Taste of Bonaire Experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things offered on Bonaire. Taste signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices. Wilhelmina Park starting at 6 pm.

July 28 - August 1 - 6th Annual Starboard Pro Kids Freestyle World Championship. A week of activities with special focus on young children participating. An internationally recognized windsurfing competition which is the meeting point of different countries around the world. For more information: www.prokidsfreestyle.com

Saturday, August 14 - Big Flea market at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Books, kitchen stuff, carpets, bric a brac, clothes, mugs, puzzles, games, DVDs, CDs, a walker and more.... 11 am to 5 pm at the Shelter on Lagoen Road. Drinks and snacks during the market. All proceeds go towards keeping the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. Donations of items may be dropped off at the Shelter now until Friday, August 13. More information **717-4989**.

August 22 -28 Celebrate Our Planet Week featuring a Lifetime Award presentation to Dr. Eugenie Clark .

September
Sunday, September 5- Local Fishing Tournament
Sunday, September 5- Duo Test International Competition
Monday, September 6 -Bonaire Flag Day (legal holiday)

October
October 24 -Bonaire Xtreme Duo MTB race

REGULAR EVENTS

- **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.

- **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](#)
- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book [Reef Windows](#).

Fridays

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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 7pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819)

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

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.

The Hash House Harriers running and walking club meets every **second Wednesday** for a one hour walk throughout Bonaire. The location changes each week. The contact number is **700-4361**

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 Cru-

sita 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 Por'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

Send event info to:
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reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel:790-6518, 786-6125

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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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: , Stephanie Bennett, Shaëdra Baromeo, Molly Bartikoski, Tony Bond, Christie Dovale, Rhian Evans, Genady Filkovsky Jack Horkheimer, Greta Kooistra, Panchito (Tony Angila), Ruben Petrisie. Michael Thiessen
Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Elisabeth Silberie & Georgina Sanchez (Playa), Divi-Divi Airline

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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KRALENDIJK-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides
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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 16	04:12 / 0.61 ft	11:41 / - 0.24 ft	17:57 / 0.76 ft			6:18	19:04
Sat 17		00:55 / 0.10 ft	05:18 / 0.47 ft	12:15 / - 0.21 ft	18:39 / 0.91 ft	6:19	19:04
Sun 18	First Quarter	02:13 / 0.01 ft	06:25 / 0.34 ft	12:50 / - 0.18 ft	19:23 / 1.03 ft	6:19	19:04
Mon 19		03:22 / 0.08 ft	07:31 / 0.24 ft	13:24 / - 0.14 ft	20:07 / 1.10 ft	6:19	19:04
Tue 20		04:25 / 0.14 ft	08:36 / 0.16 ft	13:57 / - 0.10 ft	20:52 / 1.13 ft	6:19	19:04
Wed 21		05:27 / 0.18 ft	09:41 / 0.10 ft	14:29 / - 0.06 ft	21:37 / 1.12 ft	6:20	19:04
Thu 22		06:28 / 0.19 ft	10:50 / 0.06 ft	14:55 / - 0.01 ft	22:22 / 1.08 ft	6:20	19:04
Fri 23		07:28 / 0.18 ft	12:13 / 0.05 ft	15:11 / 0.03 ft	23:06 / 1.02 ft	6:20	19:03
Sat 24		08:25 / 0.17 ft	23:49 / 0.95 ft			6:20	19:03
Sun 25	Full Moon	09:17 / 0.15 ft				6:21	19:03
Mon 26		00:32 / 0.86 ft	10:00 / 0.13 ft			6:21	19:03
Tue 27		01:13 / 0.77 ft	10:32 / 0.10 ft			6:21	19:02
Wed 28		01:57 / 0.67 ft	10:56 / 0.06 ft	17:52 / 0.36 ft	21:01 / 0.34 ft	6:21	19:02
Thu 29		02:43 / 0.57 ft	11:13 / 0.03 ft	17:44 / 0.44 ft	23:07 / 0.32 ft	6:21	19:02
Fri 30		03:33 / 0.48 ft	11:26 / 0.00 ft	17:52 / 0.53 ft		6:22	19:02

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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.

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Miss Bonaire Beach Beauty Pageant

The Miss Bonaire Pageant delegates competed before an enthusiastic crowd in The Beach Beauty Swimsuit event held on June 27 at Eden Beach. The sun was hot, the music was loud and the energy was palpable. Each of the six beautiful contestants (Angelica Marinez, Angelica Rodriguez, Ana Marciel, Benazir Charles, Loresca Anthony and Sharitee Rosalia) strutted their stuff on the catwalk, wearing merchandise from Aquamarina, Hippie Chique and Outlet Mol. They were evaluated by a panel of eight judges, including the Head Judge Harold Vasseur, and were rated based on their smiles, self esteem, posture, poise, figures and the ability to shine in swimwear. They voted the winner to be **Sharitee Rosalia**. Sharitee also won the Miss Eden Beach award, sponsored by the Eden Beach Resort.



Candidates for the Miss Bonaire Beach Beauty Pageant



Winner Sharitee Rosalia

The Reporter asked winner Sharitee, "How does it feel to be named Miss Beach Beauty?" She answered, "It feels wonderful and at the same time surreal, because I never felt like I had a body that would look great in a bathing suit. But it is an awesome feeling to know that all the hard work that I have put into my body has paid off and is noticeable to people." "What do you do to keep in shape," we asked? "As part of the Miss Universe

group we work out five and sometimes six times a week, doing fun classes like Zumba and the hard ones like Body-Toning. And since I work at the Bon Bida Spa and Gym I sometimes work out there in my free time. Plus I do kickboxing. And of course I have to watch what I eat. And I do hope that Outlet Mol, will keep on sponsoring us."

The Miss Bonaire organization prides itself on developing elegance, confidence and intelligence in the contestants. The final contest will be on September 4 when Miss Bonaire will be crowned and then compete in the Miss Universe competition. In the past, a Miss Bonaire has gone all the way to the Miss Universe Finals.

Do you have what it takes to compete in the Miss Bonaire Pageant? The organization is already looking for candidates for the 2011 Miss Bonaire. Visit their web site (www.missbonaire.com) to complete the form.

■ Story & photos by Molly Bartikoski Kearney

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Panchito Kid's Corner (Papiamentu)

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Panchito Kid's Corner (English)

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Solutions on page 17

Body Talk

MONITOR YOUR pH/ MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

The body's biochemistry is alkaline by intention, but every metabolic process in the body produces acidity by function. Every single cell is always trying to maintain optimum pH by excreting its waste, and the liver, bowels and kidneys detox this waste.

Water, in the form of tissue fluid or blood, can remove the waste products from

metabolism, provided we are not dehydrated. Acid reactions result in a buildup of lactic acid and lactate dehydrogenase, and this promotes degeneration within the body. The body signals a problem through the mechanism of pain and depression. How often do we still that warning sign with a pain killer instead of checking our pH?

So what are the factors that would make a pH go out of balance? Dehydration caused by excessive caffeine, cigarettes, alcohol, sugar and junk foods. Living or working in a toxic environment. Interaction with hard chemicals such as petrol, pesticides and insecticides. Negative or low self esteem and worry all contribute to increasing the acid concentration.

Chemotherapy can also cause the body to go very acidic, which in turn creates more yeast, which in turn creates more cancer. All cancer cells have lactic acid in their immediate environment.

The pH can affect the function of some very important chemical and hormonal reactions within our cells, and all proteins and especially enzymes and hormones in the body are very susceptible to incorrect pH.

Take the thyroid for example, another gland that is susceptible to bad pH. The thyroid picks up iodine via the stomach and liver ONLY if the pH is perfect. A perfect pH is dependent on sensible food choices and lifestyle - FULL STOP! If your urine and saliva pH is off, digestion is off. When digestion is off, your pH will be off. Can you see a pattern emerging?

But pH is not something that can be fixed today and will stay fixed. The body is constantly moving through acid and alkaline cycles and the only way to know and understand exactly what your body is doing with the food you eat or what you drink, is to check your pH regularly. This is something you can do very easily at home and you can test the theory by having deliberate acidic meals and compare that with alkaline meals. At the same time you could keep a record of how you feel, and in no time will you know, how what you eat, is affecting your body and your moods.

But how can we correct the pH? First you have to know exactly what your pH is! An acidic urine pH could easily be corrected with calcium carbonate. YES, you do need to check exactly which calcium you buy next time. For example, taking calcium glycerol phosphate when your urine pH is acidic will push it even further down (more acidic). At the same time, taking calcium carbonate when your urine pH is alkaline will do exactly the opposite of what you are trying to achieve! READ THE SMALL-PRINT! I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have about your pH or calcium supplements - just ask! □ *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 Bonaire health issues. She is the owner of the *Essence Nutritional Center*



*High Blood pressure?
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 *Cholesterol problems?
 *Always tired, cannot cope?
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 *Does your body have a problem handling sugar?

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Bondy On The Ball—2010.

RUN UP TO THE FINALS

The first game in the last 16 saw Uruguay take on South Korea. Korea were their usual industrious selves, but with their leaky defence and lack of flair, they were easy meat for Uruguay who became the first team to make the quarter finals.

The second game had a lot at stake. On one hand, there was the invigorated American side and on the other Ghana, the last African club remaining. This was always going to be close to call and despite Prince Boateng putting Ghana ahead inside 5 minutes, we had another hour to wait until we saw a net ripple again. This time, Landon Donovan dispatched his penalty with consummate accuracy. In extra time, Ghana scored almost immediately, and despite every effort from the USA, they hung on to the end.

Before I begin, I would like to ask you all to observe a 2 minute silence for the death of England Football Team.....Actually they don't deserve it! Whatever the reasons, the team needs to be stripped down and rebuilt with fresh blood. Germany on the other hand was excellent. Despite it being seen as the weakest squad for years, they cut through England like a knife through butter. There must have been something of a feel of *schadenfreude* as Frank Lampard's goal was adjudged not to have crossed the line. Surely we can all put 1966 to bed now!

Argentina and Mexico next and time to see if Argentina really is that good. The simple answer.....Yes! This was the most entertaining game to date, and Carlos Tevez was on fire. OK, his 1st goal was offside, but his second was a candidate for goal of the tournament. Maradona's men went on to win 3-0 and book a lip smacking quarter final place against Germany

Next we travelled to the Moses Mabhida Stadium to watch the Netherlands take on Slovakia. The Dutch had looked impressive going into this match but despite their victory, it was not their best performance. Robben was restored to the starting line-up and fired home after 18 minutes to earn them the right to face Brazil. They added another to their tally late on but all the Slovaks could achieve was a last gasp goal from the penalty spot.

As Brazil faced up against Chile later on that day, I am sure that there were many orange shirted fans who were cheering for Chile. If that was the case, it didn't help them at all and Brazil steamrollered them by three goals to nil. Sorry, Holland!

The penultimate match of this round saw Paraguay play Japan. The worst thing that could have happened in this match was for it to be taken into extra time. Unfortunately that is exactly what happened. I felt as though two hours of my life had been stolen from me as two mediocre teams dragged the game corpse-like to a penalty shoot-out. Thankfully that was over quickly and a miss from Japan saw Paraguay advance.

The last game of the final 16 looked on paper to be the most mouth watering as Spain took on Portugal. Neither team had excited thus far, but one thing was for certain, something had to give! Portugal chose to try and stifle play as they had done in their preceding matches, but Spain was too hot to handle. After David Villa had put the Spaniards ahead, it was obvious that Portugal did not have a plan B. The final 1-0 victory for Spain was well deserved.

After repainting my Vuvuzela bright orange, I took my seat for the much anticipated match between Holland and Brazil. It was 1974 when the Netherlands last beat

Brazil in the World Cup; maybe it was to be their time. It appeared to be business as usual when Robinho scored a delightful goal for Brazil inside 10 minutes.

After a scrappy first half, the second began with a little good fortune as Melo scored an own goal giving Holland some hope. The Brazilians were visibly shaken and within 15 minutes Sneijder had doubled the tally. As Brazil crumbled, the Dutch grew in stature, and as the whistle blew for full time I could hear the roars in City Café from here.

Ghana became Africa's last hope of glory as they took on Uruguay. It really was end to end stuff and with penalties looming and the score at 1-1 at the end of extra time, Ghana were given a penalty. As a nation held their breath, Asamoah Gyan had a once in a lifetime chance to be a hero. Nobody could believe it as the ball crashed onto the crossbar. In the penalty shootout, Uruguay kept their nerve for the right to face the Netherlands in the Semi Finals.

It was time to see how good the Germans really were. They're having dispatched England with consummate ease, we all thought that Argentina would be a different proposition. How wrong we were! Germany were absolutely clinical and destroyed Maradona's Mob by scoring 4 goals for the third time in the competition. Stunning, organised and a little scary!

In the final game of this round, Spain faced Paraguay. Despite the lowly score-line, it was a game of cut and thrust. Both teams had a chance to take the lead via the penalty spot but failed. In the end, Spain's star player of the tournament, David Villa, scored the only goal of the game to put them through.

The Netherlands have been the dark horses of this competition, but going into this match with Uruguay, the odds for them becoming overall winners tumbled. These two teams had met four times before with Uruguay winning three of the matches. Giovanni Van Bronckhorst got the Oranje off to a perfect start with a sensational 18th-minute opener. For as much as Uruguay tried, they were frustrated by attack after attack. Against the run of play, tournament surprise player, Diego Forlan, got an equalizer just before the end of the first half. Uruguay were encouraged by their late goal and looked most likely to score in the second half, however, the Dutch responded with endless counter-attacks. Eventually, Sneijders goal knocked their opponents for six and while their heads were still reeling, Robben slotted home Holland's third. Great stuff and well deserved!

Spain against Germany was too close to call for us mere mortals. Luckily, we had the predictions of Paul, the psychic Octopus. The Oberhausen-based cephalopod had a 100% record going into this game and once again, he got it right! Germany had looked unstoppable going into this game but Spain were just too good. Their passing and movement was the key to beating the Germans and without possession, they ran



Internet photo

out of ideas. In the second half, Spain just kept on coming and despite the sublime attempts from their superstar players, it was veteran defender, Carles Puyol, who nearly burst the net with the powerful header that took them into the final.

Before that, there was the little matter of 3rd place to be decided between Germany and Uruguay. These matches can be non-events but it was obvious that both teams wanted to win. It was real end to end stuff with 5 goals to delight us. In the end, Germany got the victory they deserved although Diego Forlan nearly took the match into extra time when, in the 93rd minute, his free kick rattled the cross bar. Watch out for the Germans in Brazil, 2014. They are going to be the team to beat!

Not a day passes that I don't wish that I was back on Bonaire enjoying pizza at Joe's, a beer at Lee's or Happy Hour in City Cafe. But, to be on Bonaire when the Netherlands play in the World Cup Final would have been the ultimate experience. Unperturbed, I took solace by surrounding myself with Oranjeboom lager, bitterballen and mayonnaise coated fries.

Paul the Octopus had already set out his stall, Spain was to be victorious. He may boast three hearts, but my solitary one was rooting for the orange men. Pundits wondered how the Dutch would contain Spain; within a few minutes we learned the answer. Aggression! To be honest, the Netherlands were lucky to have 11 men on the pitch after the first 45 minutes but it was great to see. The Sangria sipping softies didn't like being roughed up and I felt as though I was back in the 1970s watching football as it used to be. Ninety minutes came and went with few opportunities and both teams moved up a gear in extra time. In the second period of extra time, Heitinga

was sent off for a second bookable offence leaving Holland to fight on with just 10 men. Just as it looked as though we were set for a penalty shoot-out, Iniesta was played in by Fabregas and the Barcelona man finished brilliantly putting Spain in the lead. And that, as they say, was all she wrote. Despite my and (Paul's) prediction coming true, I took little pleasure from the result. In 1974 the Netherlands became known as "The beautiful losers." For as poetic as that nomenclature is, it will be of little comfort to the Dutch.

So, how does one sum up this World Cup in a few words? Colourful, vibrant, exciting, unpredictable, surprising and of course noisy! Although we now know the winners of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, I guess that it will be some time before we know whether South Africa will be the ultimate victor. Let's hope so. ■ Tony Bond

Antony Bond, currently based in Scotland, is contemplating a return to Bonaire. He's used his love of the sport and international perspective to report on this year's World Cup.



BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 8)



Q) What is this specific tree called?

A) Mesquite\ *Prosopis juliflora*

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

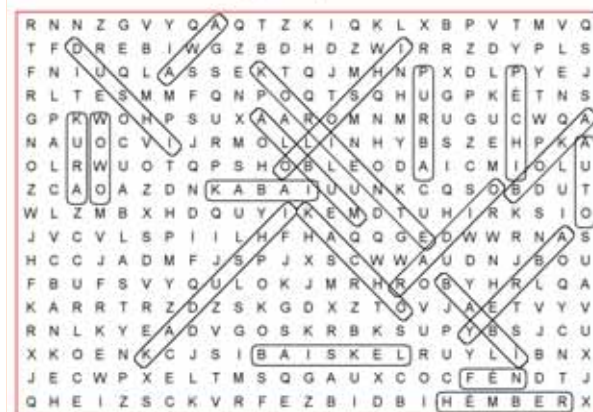
Panchito Kid's Corner

Puzzle Solutions

Puzzle on page 16

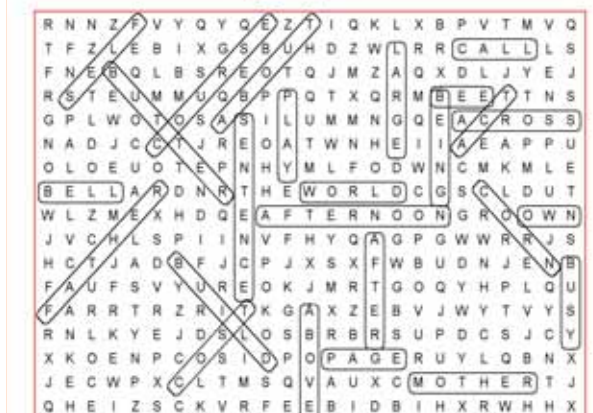
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info@bonairereporter.com



Panchito Kid's Corner (English)

www.panchitobonaire.com
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SGB High School Poetry Contest Winners

The winners of the poetry contest sponsored by guest teacher, Pauline Kayes, Professor of Humanities at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, for students in Artie de Vries' and Johanna Gordijn's classes were honored recently.

In the two last issue of *The Reporter* we printed the winning poems. The following two poems received honorable mentions.

Something

By Jair Vanganzwinkel

I wake up and look outside.
I see everything around me, and, looking at all this, one could say: Gee, nature that's something!

It's just there, day after day, week after week, century after century, never ceasing. With some light its sights, smells and sounds (which you hear when you are around), can be quite surprising. But wait...I remember something. There is more to it than it seems. When there is no light, no day.. There is more than just the nature on this planet.

And far, far away, you'll see the stars and maybe even the Milky Way. Maybe there is even more than we think there is. It's just a matter of looking around. And the further we go, the more we'll meet and maybe we'll say: What is all this? It's more than just bliss. So where does it come from?

Well, before I forget, there is a thing worth mentioning.

It's just a detail. You see, there is a something bigger than just this planet. What I am talking about is called the universe or the cosmos.

And yet, in all this, there is only one place where we can retreat. This place is called earth.

This big and bold rounded chunk of dark blue is a place worth calling home.

Life itself is destined for this place, a pearl of the universe.

I wonder what people of long ago living here and there might think looking at the glowing stars.

Maybe we'll never know.

So then, it is a lovely thought to—when the



day pas passed – lie down and go dreaming into a world of your own. And whilst dreaming knowing that when you awake from your sleep, it all will just be waiting there. Waiting to be discovered.....

My Need of Freedom

By Keila Mensché

Living two lives;
Keeping myself behind.
On one side to see the smiles,
And on the other to change his mind.



I'll always wonder how it will be...
If I had my liberty.
To be able to show you who's me.
Live m'a life and be just who I wanna be.

Sometimes I feel so trapped.
You put my wishes inside a box
All I want is that trust you're lacking
To show you what I do best,
Express myself with drawings and paintings,

Boy I ain't taking any rest.
Oh, let me be free
Let me be who I wanna be
Blow your mind like a Gun lee
Riming every word that starts with a "D"

Please let me loose, let me fly away.
Make a disaster out of everything
I'm tired of pretending anyway
Let me at least try and say somethin'

But since you got me on house arrest
Making me dream and go back in the past
Unable to amaze you
Unable to express to you, who I am

Laying on that soft comforting fabric
Lie still, until all words go italic
I hear the sound of life in me
In rhythm, just like the sea

Little by little I grow old
My comfortable fabric got all cold
As one day my sea will be quiet
And with my eyes open to see italic
Become bold
And bold become black
Lifeless. ■

Pet of the Week

Just a few days ago this mother cat, "Queenie," was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. She had been found by a Good Samaritan with her two new born kittens: one black and one striped like its mom. Then, a few days later someone found another newborn kitten, a black and white one, and brought it into the Shelter to hopefully save its life. Usually a kitten as young as this with no mother is sure to die, but when the new kitten was brought to Queenie, she immediately adopted it as her own and began feeding and cleaning it. That's why she's named Queenie – she's a queen among cats. What a fine character this cat has! After her motherly duties are finished Queenie will be sterilized and put up for adoption so she will have an opportunity for a happy life. You may see her and her kittens at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.



"Queenie" and her kittens

Distemper Alert. For the first time ever on Bonaire, according to the Shelter staff, there is an epidemic of the virus, Distemper. More than 50 dogs already have been identified with the deadly virus. It affects young dogs and older dogs which haven't been vaccinated against the disease and is extremely contagious. Symptoms are runny noses and eyes, not eating, diarrhea and paralysis, which may lead to death. If you haven't already please get your animals vaccinated against this horrible virus.

Mark on your calendar, Saturday, August 14. From 11 am to 5 pm the Shelter will have another of their very popular and successful Flea Markets. All the proceeds go to helping to keep the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. We saw just a few of the items that will be for sale: books, carpets, bric a brac, kitchen items, clothes, mugs, puzzles, games, DVDs, CDs, even a walker! They are looking for donations of unwanted or unused items. Now's the time to clean out those closets and get rid of what you can't use (it's very therapeutic and cleansing) and help the Animal Shelter. What's junk to you can be a treasure to someone else! Drop off your things from now until Friday, August 13 at the Shelter on Lagoen Road. ■ Laura DeSalvo



Congratulations to new owners Nuria and Leon of Sunshine Pool Care photographed right after they adopted these two darling little pups, brother and sister, Edgar and Eveline. The nine week old puppies were brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter along with their mother, "Kaya" (so named because she was a street dog) and seven other brothers and sisters. The seven others died but Mom "Kaya" has already been adopted. All the best to the new family unit! ■

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My Favorite and Almost Everyone's Favorite Summer Constellation

If I had to pick only one constellation which I like better than all the rest in summer skies, it would have to be the ancient, gigantic and dreaded **Scorpius, the Scorpion**.

On any summer night in June, July or August face south before midnight in the Sky Park and, depending on what month and hour you look, the scorpion will either be southeast, due south or southwest. But you should have no trouble finding it because it's huge and one of the few constellations which actually looks like its name. Indeed if we connect each bright star in Scorpius with lines we can see a very simple-line representation of a scorpion with his claws drawn in. Or if you're afraid of scorpions you can imagine this constellation to be a giant fishhook as seen by some ancient Polynesians or the capital letter, 'J', for Jack. Scorpius has been around for thousands of years and was depicted by many cultures, including the ancient Egyptians.

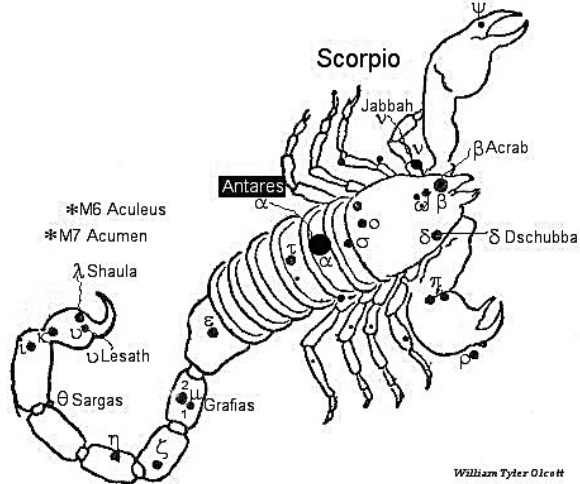
In ancient Greece and Rome, however, the scorpion was much bigger than now and its claws extended forward from it as if getting ready to grab whatever planets or comets might come its way. And if you look closely you'll see two stars where his claws used to be. They are named **Zuben Elgenubi** and **Zuben Eschamali** and in Arabic, literally mean the northern claw and the southern claw. But Julius Caesar and his megalomaniacal friends in the Roman Senate decided that Rome was so special that it needed its own constellation as a form of ancient PR. So they did a hatchet job on Scorpius' claws to make up the constellation, which they said stood for the symbol of Roman justice, Libra. Talk about cosmic injustice!

At any rate once you've found Scorpius with his claws no longer outstretched, pay particular attention to where the scorpion's heart should be. Because, believe it or not, there, just by coincidence, a red star named **Antares** is right where his red heart should be. And this star Antares is my very favorite summer star, hands down, because it is one of the three largest stars we can see with the naked eye.

Now I usually refer to our **Sun** as being a million miles wide to make it easy to remember, but in fact it is a bit short of that number, being only 865,000 miles wide, but which is still pretty huge compared to our 8,000-mile-wide **Earth**. In fact our Sun is so huge we could fit over a million and a half of our Earths inside it.

Antares, however, puts our Sun to shame, because it is 700 times wider than our Sun, so huge we could fit over 350 million Suns inside it! Or if you'd like to think of it this way, if we placed one edge of it where our Sun is, it would reach out past the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter**. Wow! And it is so far away that it takes 520 years for its light to reach us. So whenever we look at Antares we see it not as it exists now but as it existed 520 years ago. So get out any summer night and marvel at the magnificent scorpion who should fill you full of wonder instead of ancient dread. ■

Jack Horkheimer



William Tyler Olcott



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For July 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. Romance will be on your mind, and chances for ideal connections are in the works. Be sure not to burn any bridges. You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't be shy to promote your own interests. New romantic relationships will develop through group activity related to sports events. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Mingle with individuals who are established and can give you some serious insight into business and future trends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) However, be careful with luggage; it may be re-routed. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. You may want to take a look at the personal papers of elders in your family. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Secret affairs will come back to haunt you. Situations could easily get blown out of proportion if you have made unreasonable promises. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. You need more time to think this whole situation through. You could meet an interesting individual you'll want to get to know better. Try to curb your habits, or you could find yourself in an awkward financial position. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Overindulgent people will cause disruptions in your life. Matters pertaining to your home environment will be favorable if you are direct. Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of

how much you want to make things better for them. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Don't hesitate to visit someone who hasn't been well. Try to keep an open mind. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) A little overtime may help you reduce the workload. Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips. You should be setting up interviews or sending out your resume this month. Ask others to help, or you may feel that a burden is weighing you down. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Look into alternate means of supporting your financial burdens. Talk to the party involved and make sure that they are informed as to what actually happened. Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. Finish projects that have been hanging over your head. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Social events will lead to a strong and stable relationship. Try to bend but by no means should you give in completely. You will find that friends or relatives may not understand your needs. You can accomplish a lot if you deal with other people's money or possessions this month. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. Your reputation will be affected. You may be overreacting to personal problems. Stretch the truth, and you may get blamed for something you didn't do. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you put your mind to it, you could entertain or host a multitude of social events. Don't let peers distract you or push their work your way. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. Your charm will attract someone special. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday. ■

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Winning Windsurfers In Lanzarote

The second stop of the PWA Freestyle Tour took place on one of the easternmost of the autonomous Spanish Canary Islands named Lanzarote. It is well known for its volcanic origin, fiery eruptions, solidified lava streams as well as extravagant rock formations. It is also a very touristy area with many resort hotels and restaurants.

I met the Bonaire boys (Kiri, Taty, Tonky, Andrew and Bjorn) a few days after at the hotel reception. It was cool to see them again of course. After they got rid of their jet leg we did a few afternoon freestyle sessions with Quincy and Saraquita from Aruba. Many competitors started to arrive as the competition days were getting closer while a bit of tension was apparent on some of the riders' faces due to the forecast predictions.

The conditions in Lanzarote are usually strong winds and a big swell up to four meters high. However, this time the forecast was being very tricky with light winds and no swell at all predicted for the entire week.

Day 1

There was a light morning breeze up to 17 knots, but the official start was set for 2 pm. After a few hours the wind dropped down just before the start of the event itself and the riders were put on standby until that afternoon.

Day2

After lunch time the wind turned to the normal direction and it started to blow just enough for the freestylers to start competing.

During the first heat everyone got to see Bjorn (Saragoza) having fun, at the same time pulling off a good selection of tricks at ease, while Andrew (Finies), a new Bonaire talent on tour, went up against Dieter, a top Belgian rider. Andrew got beaten by Dieter who now will have to face Kiri in his next round while Bjorn advances to face the current freestyle tour leader of 2010, Mr. Taty Frans himself.

Kiri (Thodé) gave a great show and moved on, but all eyes were on Taty vs Bjorn as they sailed neck and neck, sticking to new school moves until the crowd made some noise after Bjorn landed a super high and fast one-handed double air funnel.

Taty managed to get some air moves and combos, but that was not enough against Bjorn's overall performance. Taty got eliminated and lost his chance to claim another victory. For Bjorn it was super cool of course and he got congratulations from Taty straight away. It was cool to see him smiling. The wind dropped even more and more heats were cancelled.

Day3

It wasn't until late afternoon that the breeze started to kick in a bit. The final heats of the single elimi-



Tonky, Gollito and Kiri

nation finally started with a light late afternoon wind that blew on and off. Tonky (Frans) was now facing last year's world champion, Gollito. It was a heat full of tension as the conditions started to get lighter and even more gusty— too light to continue— and heats were canceled again.

Final day:

Winds blew steadily from the early morning. Tonky lost after missing two moves while the lighter Gollito was able to get more power in his moves. Kiri, still on fire, eliminated the Canadian Philip, who had stopped happy Bjorn and his flow of fun. The battle for third was now between Tonky and Philip - perhaps the two best freestyle sailors on the planet.

After lunch time they were at it again, busting moves in front of the judges. Philip was sailing at a

good level this time, but Tonky had some stylish and powerful moves including one of the latest tricks called skopu-a kono sliding into a 540 combination.

I somehow missed seeing this final heat, but word on the beach was that Kiri should have won this one. He and Gollito were both sailing at a super high level with the cleanest tricks and combinations. But the Bonairean specialist didn't win. What a bummer. Gollito became the winner of the first single elimination on the second stop of the PWA freestyle tour. I am starting to think that our boys perhaps need a manager. There are way too many issues playing a role on this tour and I personally thought that we might get a title this year, but it ain't over until it's over.



Bjorn



Kiri

The third stop will be held on the beaches of Sotavento, Fuerteventura, which is another Canary Island where our boys have managed to get previous podium results. I am sure they are looking forward to this event as there are some points to be grabbed before the Finals. ■ Ruben Petrisie

Ruben Petrisie is a windsurfing professional, Bonaire Reporter stringer and amateur rapper from Bonaire who has been on the circuit for several years.

