

**It's Still
FREE**



BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Fun at the Animal Shelter Auction
page 21

Greta
Kooistra
photo

Cyndell Dowling, Gabriella and Evita Thodé (with camera). Cyndell and Gabriella performed a cappella a delightful song they composed about the Shelter and its puppies and kittens.

Happy Holidays From The Reporter

Peace, good will and happiness
for you at Christmas
and in the New Year.





Bonaire Government photo

The foundations for the sewage treatment plant are near completion. They are being built by the company MNO Vervat at the LVV site. When complete, the target is March 2011, sewage waste from the properties along the "Hotel Row" and Kralendijk, now being deposited into cesspits that eventually leach wastewater into the sea, will be taken by tank trucks to the sewage plant to be turned into agricultural fertilizer.

The nutrients in the waste, helpful to land plants, encourage algae growth that inhibits coral reproduction. The action is applauded by reef conservationists who consider it long overdue.

AIRLINE UPDATES

► **Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) and Royal Dutch airline KLM has expanded their existing cooperation as of December 1** on the new DAE destinations and continue their transfer service to passengers. According to a DAE release, from December 1 passengers with a KLM ticket can also fly to all DAE destinations in Venezuela, Colombia and Panama "comfortably and quickly" on one ticket and with automatic baggage transfer via a transfer to DAE hub Curaçao, as well as Aruba, Bonaire and St. Maarten.

► **Curaçao businessman Arnold Leonora became the new owner and CEO of Dutch Antilles Express (DAE)** on Thursday, December 9. He bought all DAE airline operations from Niek Sandmann, who has decided to focus on real estate. Former director of

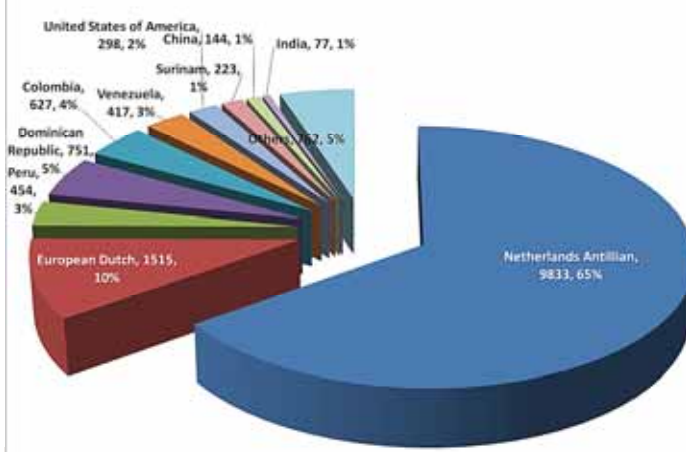
DAE, Floris van Pallandt, said he would remain as an advisor to the new CEO for the time being.

Leonora was born in Curaçao and studied Airline Business Administration, Management and Finance. He said his short term plans call for an immediate fleet replacement program, the removal of some unprofitable and marginal routes and activities and ensuring the continued and increasing employment of DAE's 150 employees. The airline will keep the name DAE, but will launch a new Website.

► **Continental Airlines will be flying twice a week from Newark to Curaçao** on Wednesdays and Saturdays, starting December 18. This flight might prove to be a good alternative for those wanting to extend their Bonaire vacation and use the regular Continental Saturday Bonaire non-stop,

► **Dutch airline ArkeFly will add a second weekly flight from Schiphol to Bonaire** beginning in April 2011 on Thursdays. The flight will be flown with a 767-300, according to Radio Netherlands. "More than 23,000 Dutch tourists visited Bonaire the past year," Director Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) said. This flight should help increase the number.

► **Dutch sailing teen 14-year old Laura Dekker is currently on her way to the Caribbean** hoping to make landfall in St. Maarten. A stop in Bonaire is in her plans. Dekker's website that she was at



About 25% of Bonaire's population consists of immigrants.- 2008 Civil Registry (Bevolking) figures.

► **The Party for Justice and Unity (Partido pro Hustisia & Union -PHU) has filed a lawsuit in order to force the government to grant voting rights** for local elections to immigrants who have had legal residence in Bonaire, Saba or Statia for five years or more.

There are two main reasons why the case was filed:

1. Immigrants in the European Netherlands have long been allowed to vote in municipal elections. Our Island Government has a status equal to a City Council, yet immigrants in the BES islands were specifically excluded from voting by the Dutch parliament. According to the PHU that was wrong.
2. Immigrants work and pay taxes in Bonaire, just like Caribbean and European Dutch citizens. Government actions affect them and their children as well as Dutch citizens. They should have representation in government.

a distance of 2,200 nautical miles from her goal hoping to arrive in three weeks. Dekker hopes to become the youngest person to circumnavigate the world single-handedly. Initially, her attempt was blocked by a Dutch court which ruled she was too young to make the journey.

► **Last week a freighter of the CAA / shipping line was "arrested" and held on Bonaire.** The ship did not meet the minimum requirements of international law for construction, safety, crew and environment. To ensure that the ship could not go to sea, the Shipping Inspectorate ship chained the vessel to the dock. But the chain was cut and the vessel disappeared.

According to the certificates of the ship it was sailing under a

Bolivian flag. However, Bolivian authorities indicated that the vessel is not registered under their flag. The ship was reported to international maritime agencies and investigation continues.

► **Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes will be leaving her job as the Director of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire** at the end of this year. In the five years she's been in the job significant improvements were made in attracting visitors to Bonaire. Born on Aruba, she returns to her home to take the job as CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority. Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of her tenure was increasing



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New Prison on Bonaire

The second tangible asset (the first was the tax office) provided to Bonaire as a result of the islands direct tie to The Netherlands opened last week: a professionally designed and operated prison.

On Thursday, December 2, the new Netherlands Caribbean prison opened after the completion of 48 new temporary jail cells. The next day



The head of the new prison, Patricia Hassell

the prison was open to the public for viewing. The opening was attended by elected officials, those in the judicial service, interested parties and featured speeches by Mrs. Dinesh ten Hoorn Boer (Director-General Department of Security and Justice), Mr Peter van de Sande (Head DJI), prison head, Patricia Hassell and Lt. Gov. Glenn Thodé.

The Dutch Custodial Institutions Service is preparing new buildings in Bonaire and St. Eustatius to meet international standards and will bring the prison capacity to 125 cells. Since the new prison will take several years to complete the temporary facility was built and will be increased to 76 cells.

An important aim is to raise the quality of the facility, focusing in particular on education and employment. ■ Press release/L.D.



A few of the guards at the new prison



Jail Cell - Not a bad place to visit, but you definitely wouldn't want to live there!

Referendum

Friday, December 17, is the day set for Bonaire residents holding Dutch citizenship to say Yes or No to the deal struck with the Dutch Central government by its elected officials. They agreed to integrate Bonaire into The Netherlands as a "special municipality."



But try as they could our reporters could not get the leaders of any of the political parties who were signatories of the agreements to endorse a YES choice. There are several prominent citizens and elected officials who are recommending NO and others who are counseling avoiding the Referendum altogether. The newly minted PHU Party advises, "This referendum is infected. Do not vote. Stay home, drink a beer, do what you want. But DO NOT VOTE."

At least 50% of the eligible voters, which includes inmates of the jail, but not non-Dutch residents, must show up at the polls for the result to be valid. However, no matter what the outcome, the result cannot directly change the deal already struck. If the vote is NO, its supporters want a binding Referendum in short order.

The heart of dissatisfaction seems to be in the lack of transparency of the negotiations leading to the final agreement. Some divisive issues include the acceptance of Dutch laws on same-sex marriage, abortion, as well as the perception that BES Dutch Islanders have an inferior level of citizenship than European Dutch residents. G.D.



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Spanish Version

Chief Surgeon- Cirujano Principal at San Francisco Hospital

English Version

“Obrar con lealtad y entrega al servicio de alguien o algo” es la mejor definición que se podría dar de servir. Siendo que esta acción implica responsabilidad y dedicación total a la ejecución de una tarea específica, no siempre es fácil encontrar personas dedicadas a esta labor. Sin embargo, somos privilegiados de tener en nuestro medio una persona cuyo lema de vida es éste.

“Me siento feliz de poder tener la oportunidad de servir en Bonaire”, fueron las palabras del Dr. Miguel A. González, cirujano principal/senior del Hospital San Francisco.

El Dr. González, originario de la ciudad de Barquisimeto, Venezuela, realizó sus estudios universitarios en la Universidad de Los Andes (ULA), donde obtuvo el título de Médico General. Al terminar sus estudios, comenzó a ejercer su profesión en el Hospital Adventista de Venezuela, donde después de haber realizado estudios de postgrado en Cirugía en la Universidad Lisandro Alvarado (UCLA), Venezuela; ejerció también la función de Médico Cirujano. Además, ha prestado sus servicios en la Clínica Costa Ortiz, donde fue coordinador de emergencias por cinco años, y cirujano especialista durante 30 años. El Hospital de Seguro Social “Dr. Pastor Oropeza”, la Cruz Roja Venezolana, y el Hospital Universitario “Dr. Antonio María Pineda”, todos con sede en Barquisimeto, también tuvieron la oportunidad de contar con sus servicios.

En su formación como cirujano reconoce como una bendición de Dios poder crecer bajo la sombra de dos maestros que fueron guía e inspiración: el Dr. Daniel González Sánchez (tío, profesor de la UCLA, Barquisimeto, Venezuela, y fundador del Hospital Adventista de Venezuela), y el Dr. Antonio Rodríguez Cirimelle (profesor de cirugía y con el título de “Bisturí de Oro” en Venezuela).

El año 1992 el Dr. González cursó estudios de postgrado, específicamente en el área de laparoscopia, en el Hospital Adventista Bella Vista, Puerto Rico. Al regresar de dicha preparación, se pudo inaugurar el servicio de cirugía laparoscópica y endoscopia gastrointestinal en el Hospital Adventista de Venezuela. Esta inauguración fue de gran relevancia, ya que fue el primer Hospital en Barquisimeto en comenzar a ofrecer el servicio de cirugía abdominal por laparoscopia.

Seguidamente en 1993 fue seleccionado por empresa privada a realizar entrenamiento de diversas patologías por laparoscopia en el Hospital Bautista de Miami Florida, USA.

Con treinta y tres años de experiencia, el doctor González se siente dichoso de poder prestar sus servicios en la isla de Bonaire, donde comenzó a laborar desde el 14 de Diciembre del año 2008 después de haber tenido una reunión con la directiva del hospital y haber acordado hacer una suplencia de un mes. Pero este plan se fue modificando hasta quedarse de manera definida. “Estoy aquí por la gracia de Dios, ya que tenía planes de ir a trabajar en otro lugar, pero Dios tenía otros planes para mí, y me siento feliz de poder servir donde él considere que es mejor hacerlo. Muchas personas me han preguntado cómo llegué a este lugar, pero mi respuesta siempre ha sido: Por la gracia de Dios”.

“La experiencia en Bonaire ha sido realmente dichosa y amena, no solamente por el buen trato que de los nativos he recibido, sino también por el cálido ambiente y excelente desempeño de cada uno de los miembros del equipo que en el hospital labora. También, la responsabilidad es mayor al no tener la posibilidad de consultar con colegas acerca de casos complejos pero Dios nos ha dado la sabiduría para tomar la mejor decisión.”

Como parte del desarrollo que Bonaire presenta actualmente, el Dr. González hace remarque sobre los cambios que se están presentando en el Hospital. “Nuevos equipos están llegando al hospital que facilitaran el trabajo y evitaran la salida de los pacientes a otros lugares. Este aspecto será de gran avance no solamente para el desarrollo del hospital sino además para el bienestar de los pacientes, ya que el hecho de salir de las costas de Bonaire representa un alto riesgo para su salud. Además especialistas en diferentes áreas vendrán a prestar sus servicios en el hospital, que suplirán necesidades que el hospital presenta actualmente.”

Vislumbrando un futuro brillante y teniendo como misión “prestar un servicio abnegado y responsable”, el Dr. Miguel A. González es un ejemplo de lo que significa vivir dedicado a servir con amor. Que privilegio contar con su presencia en este lugar! ■ Ivón Selassa



Dr. Miguel A. González

“To work with loyalty and devotion to the service of someone or something” is probably the best definition of what it means to serve. Since this action implies responsibility and a total commitment to the carrying out of a specific task, it’s not always easy to find people dedicated to this particular labor. However, we have the privilege of having with us a person whose motto of life is this.

“I’m glad to have the opportunity to serve in Bonaire,” were the words of Dr. Miguel A. González, the senior surgeon of the San Francisco Hospital.

Dr. González, a native of Barquisimeto, Venezuela, completed his undergraduate studies at Los Andes University (ULA) where he earned the general practitioner diploma. Afterwards, he worked in the Adventist Hospital of Venezuela, where he served as a surgeon after finishing postgraduate studies in Surgery at the Lisandro

Alvarado University (UCLA), Venezuela. Additionally, he has worked in the Costa Ortiz Clinic, an organization where he was emergency coordinator for five years and specialist surgeon for 30 years. He also worked at the Social Security Hospital, “Dr. Pastor Oropeza,” the Venezuelan Red Cross and at the University Hospital, “Dr. Antonio María Pineda,” all of them in Barquisimeto.

In his training as a surgeon he recognizes as a blessing the opportunity of growing under the shadow of two masters who were his guides and inspirations: Dr. Daniel González Sánchez (uncle, professor at the Lisandro Alvarado University (UCLA), Barquisimeto, Venezuela, and founder of the Adventist Hospital of Venezuela) and Dr. Antonio Rodríguez Cirimelle (Surgery professor and owner of the “the Gold Scalp” title in Venezuela).

In 1992 Dr. González completed graduate studies, specifically in the laparoscopy area, at Bella Vista Adventist Hospital in Puerto Rico. He returned to the Adventist Hospital of Venezuela and thanks to his postgraduate study he initiated laparoscopy surgery and gastrointestinal endoscopy service there. This was the first hospital in Barquisimeto to offer abdominal surgery by laparoscopy.

Later in 1993 he was selected by a private company for training in a different kind of pathology (specifically laparoscopy) in the Baptist Hospital of Miami Florida, in the US.

With 33 years of experience, Dr. González feels blessed to be able to serve in Bonaire, where he began to work on December 14th, 2008. After a meeting with the hospital board of directors he agreed to be a substitute surgeon job for a month. But the plan that was supposed to be for one month, became two years. “I’m here because of God’s grace, as I had plans to work in another place, but God had other plans for me, and I feel happy to serve where he considers it better for me to do so. Many people have asked me about how I got here, but my answer has always been the same.”

“The experience in Bonaire has been really enjoyable and pleasant, not only because I have been well treated by the natives, but also because of the pleasant working environment and the excellent performance of every member of the team who works in the hospital. It also represents a higher responsibility because there isn’t the possibility of asking the opinion of colleagues about complicated cases, but God has given us the wisdom to make the best decision.”

As part of the current development that Bonaire is facing, Dr. González points out the changes that are occurring in the hospital. “New equipment is arriving at the hospital that will facilitate the work and will avoid patients having to move elsewhere. That will be an advancement not only for the development of the hospital but also for the patient’s welfare due to the fact that having to leave the coast of Bonaire represents a higher risk for a patient’s health.”

“Additionally, specialists in different areas will be coming to work at the hospital, and that will surely help to supply the current needs of the hospital.”

Envisioning a bright future and having as a mission “to give a dedicated and responsible service,” Dr. Miguel A. González is an example of someone living by being committed to serve with love.

What a privilege to have him in our island! ■ Story & Photo Ivón Selassa

The Reporter is continuing its commitment to publish articles in Spanish for our readers. Spanish is a first language for about 20% of Bonaire’s population

On the Island Since... March 1, 2010 – Patricia Hassell

“I was born in Aruba where my father worked for Lago refinery. In 1977 I went to study Judicial Social Work at the Catholic Social Academy, ‘Markendaal,’ in Breda, Holland. In my third year I worked as a trainee on Aruba and Curaçao in the after care of prisoners and in the penal system. I returned to Holland in 1980, rounded off my fourth year, then I started working as a social worker in ‘De Koepel’ prison in Breda.

In 1988 I did directors training. Since the time I started high school I’d wanted to do something in the penal system. I thought about becoming a lawyer, but I found that too dry. I wanted a combination of practice and theory. It’s great! Ha ha ha! What a sadist...but okay, I followed the director’s classes and went to Aruba to become the director of the prison and there I set up KIA – Correctional Institute Aruba.

At the end of 1992 I became the chief acting director of detention issues at the Penal Institution Maastricht and I worked there until the first of January, 1999. By the end of that time I’d been scouted by a recruiting firm looking for a director for an institution for homeless women, the ‘Rita Home.’ I had been working in the penal system for 20 years

called ‘Portaal 040,’ opened its doors in 2003 and I was involved as the care manager from the very beginning. It was mighty great! Also, it was unique for The Netherlands as this concept where three organizations worked so close together under one roof was unknown. When I did my Master’s Personal Leadership – Innovation and Change – it was based on the concept of ‘Portaal 040.’

Then I became interim manager for Beniers Advice Group, doing consultancy in the management field and I worked as a manager for youth care and care for disabled people.”

Miss Hassell is an outstanding, first class professional and a very dynamic lady. She’s also fun and a people’s person. She’s patient and she’s kind and extremely smart. And after talking to her for quite a while there’s one word that stands up: Respect!

“December 29th, 2008, I saw where there was a vacancy for a director for the prison on Bonaire. The application date had already passed! Ha ha ha! But I thought, ‘I’ll give it a try!’ During the first week of January 2009 I got the message that they would include me in the application procedure because I had so much expertise in so many dif-

staffed, but still, they managed.

After the Commission for Torture for Human Rights brought out a very negative report in 2008 concerning the prison on Bonaire, Holland was consulted and the penal judicial system came to Bonaire and started to renovate the institution. The detention facilities had to be upgraded to an international level. Also, extra personnel were flown in from Holland every six months to support the staff and do on-the-job training – twinning - to upgrade the institution.

We went from 52 to 76 detention places. A block of 10 cells to house arrestees will be put into use in March. We also have isolation cells. At the moment we’re housing two people in one cell. Until a while ago we only had two regimes: the house of detention where offenders with a punishment of minimal one year were housed, and the prison where people are serving long-term punishment. Six months ago we put the youth – ages from 13-21, separate. In my opinion it’s a bad idea to mix youngsters with adults. But there’s one exception. When they’re playing sports, especially soccer, we do mix them and it’s fun for everyone.

Boys in their puberty get into all kinds of things. They want what other people have. Some kids can handle it; others can’t. The role of the parents is very important, but then there’s the outside world, the society, the friends. We should have alternatives for youngsters, because punishment is one thing, but in prison we should also provide professional education. Compared to Holland, punishment here is quite severe, but then, there are no other alternatives. That’s why I want to go the extra mile for the youngsters; we’re going to bring more structure into the education and they are getting more attention from the personnel and I do see things changing. Six months ago I would never have thought these kids could play Zwarte Piet for the children of the prisoners during Sinterklaas!

Well, which ever way you want to see it – we are a prison, but by offering humane detention and insisting on a respectful treatment from the staff towards the prisoners and vice versa – you



Patricia in the office



Patricia Hassell “on the job”

“That’s why I want to go the extra mile for the youngsters; we’re going to bring more structure into the education ...”

and I thought, ‘If I want to make a change, I have to do it now, because I’ve become so integrated into the penal system that I will never be able to get out anymore.’

It was a most wonderful challenge. The institution was so much locked up in itself and desperately needed an upgrading. Women had been living there for very long periods of time with very little perspective. So we began to coach them in looking for work within their capabilities and we mediated in their search for a job. Then the Rita Home merged with other social crisis centers.

Because of this fusion and the collaboration with the Mental Health Care Eindhoven and Substance Abuse Care Novadic, we saw the same clients repeatedly, so we decided to start a crisis center involving the staff of the three institutions which would be open 24-7. This crisis center,

ferent fields, especially in the management field. I know the penal system in The Netherlands and on Aruba and I am familiar with both cultures – so I do have a lot to offer. Another challenge... I love challenges! I wanted to put my teeth into it! I didn’t know Bonaire, I’d only been here twice for a weekend, but I wanted to go for it!

You don’t see a lot of women in leading positions in the penal system, not even in Holland. So, it was quite exciting, especially because the institution on Bonaire is rather small and I was wondering how the staff was going to handle it, but I was accepted from day one. When I heard one of the employees telling another colleague, ‘E ta un di nos’ – ‘she is one of us’ – I thought, ‘I’m okay!’

I do have a lot of respect for the old team, my Bonairean colleagues, who worked on their own till 2008, heavily under-

see a turn in behavior. We are the ones setting the bounds, but we keep communicating and I think it’s important when a member of my staff who writes a report is present when the report is being dealt with in the presence of the prisoner because both of them have to deal with each other every day.

At this moment we’re housing 45 prisoners, and we’re aiming at having 60 warders. We do have a collaboration agreement with the prisons on Curaçao and St. Maarten and we will always help each other out. Now we have a psycho-medical team, a permanent male nurse and a house doctor. We also have a special care department for prisoners with psychiatric, psychological and social problems. Besides that we’re starting up a ward for prisoners with behavioral problems.

We are trying to put as many multi-functional places as possible in this little square that that we have. Here, we only house men, but when I get a woman in (they were either transported to Curaçao or they had to wait for their hearing) I will have to create some space within the institution.

When you see the line of my career – what is it I can offer people (without being arrogant about it)? How do you show people their opportunities instead of

their limitations? I think in the penal system you have to create a climate that’s as reasonable as possible and within the limits for prisoners who have to serve 20 to 30 years. That’s all you can do, but which ever way you see it, we’re always talking about people...

This week I will be 55. All my family is in Holland, but here the people made me feel at home. I really hope to stay here for years to come! When I don’t work I read and read and read, true stories - I love it! For a long time I’ve been reading about African women and now I am into Baldacci, crime stories! But I also like to go out, mingle with people and live the life.

I am proud of my work, I am proud of the staff, of my personnel, because we are doing it together. There’s one more thing... I do hope I won’t see an x-amount of people back, because then I will feel we’ve won something!” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





BONAIREAN VOICES

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

Some of you might remember about two years ago, in January 2008, I wrote an article about our music and the music school. And today, nearly the end of 2010, we've made little progress.

As most of us know music is part of our culture, a way of expressing life. Some artists, as they sing and flow with the music, color their world with a lot of nice experiences. We have very nice and smart kids, gifted with good voices and talent, so do not let them go to waste.

In February 2011, Mrs. Emma Sint Jago together with the Foundation Art and Culture will organize a Duo Fest, which we haven't had for a long time on Bonaire. If you have talent and you can sing, now is your opportunity to participate.

I interviewed Mr. Siegfried Molina (52), for five years manager and instructor of the music school. The youngsters who will be participating in the Duo Fest are being trained and coached by Mr. Molina. He explains, "Money is still an issue. We need money for new instruments. We have a lot of old equipment that our students are using. And we are still in the old building, hoping for a new one. The students need to have their lessons in another kind of auditorium. We need a new building as soon as possible. We've been waiting for the last five years for this building to be rebuilt or the music school to be reopened in a new place. Now with all the changes we have to wait until 2012 for our project to be financed.

But the music school needs to keep existing in 2011 and the students who are participating for the Duo Fest in February 2011 are in full training. So the local government in its turn must help the music school and its existence."

Mr. Giovanni Mercera (37), co-worker with Mr. Molina at the music school, agreed with him in so many ways and said, "Definitely this building needs a new facelift or we need a complete new building. We have so many projects that we'd like to accomplish with our talented kids. Some of them are multi-talented. Not only can they sing, but they can play different instruments. Well of course for these kinds of projects we need funds that we don't have at this moment. We need more music teachers and an audio studio for recording. The audio studio can be used by all musicians who'd like to record here on Bonaire.



Maribel, Neburney, Nethanja and Javienne at the music school



Nethanja on piano and Javienne on guitar

On December 19th at the Plaza Resort we'll have a program from 2:30 to 5 pm at the Plaza where our kids from the music school will play Christmas songs together in a band. Entrance is free. Parents and the whole Bonairean community can come and enjoy the performance of these children of what they learned at the music school."

I interviewed also one of the Duo Fest talented singers, Miss Néthanja Bendt (19). She is also the vocalist coach for the students participating in the festival.

She said, "Music is part of my life. I was born into a family of musicians. My mother is a music teacher and a very talented musician. My father is a singer, my grandfather is a singer and played guitar and cello. I like to sing and play instruments, but what I like to play most is the piano. As soon I heard about the Duo Fest festival in February 2011 I immediately wanted to be part of it. I know we have a lot of talented children in Bonaire and I have a few suggestions for them. If you can sing, don't be afraid to do it. Be brave and share your gift. We never have anything for our youth on Bonaire, parents are always complaining, but now is the time for our youth to find their true colors. Other issues that is holding our children back are religion and school. Of course we have to acknowledge our school and religious obligations before we engage in any entertained activities, but we never have to close our eyes or ears to the opportunity our youth have to express themselves. Parents have the obligation also to help their children achieve their goals in life by working on their

(Continued on next page, page 7)

Latin Music Classics



Steelpan is a musical percussion instrument, originating in Trinidad and Tobago, made from 55 gallon drums that usually store oil.

The fact that Trinidad produces oil means that there was a continual supply of oil drums.

The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TASPO) was the first steel band whose instruments were all made from oil drums. The pan is struck by a pair of straight sticks tipped with rubber.

The music that came out of the pan was the music of the poor and was not considered respectable in the early 1930s. In time, the steel drum gained respect and today the groups range from small groups to huge orchestras. They perform anything from classics through jazz and calypso, and the music has spread across the world. But the home of the steel drum is still Trinidad where there are over 100 steel bands in the country and their great showcase is Carnival.

Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: The big hit of "The Merry-men" was "The Big Bambo."

This week's winner is Jan-Willem van Dijk! He can pick up his free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18.

This week's question: Bonaire has its own Steel band. What is the name of this Steel band?

Please send your answer to: info@jodysonbonaire.com and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop at Lagoen Hill #18. The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of The Reporter. ■ Jo Bux

Column sponsor: Jody's Fashion & Music

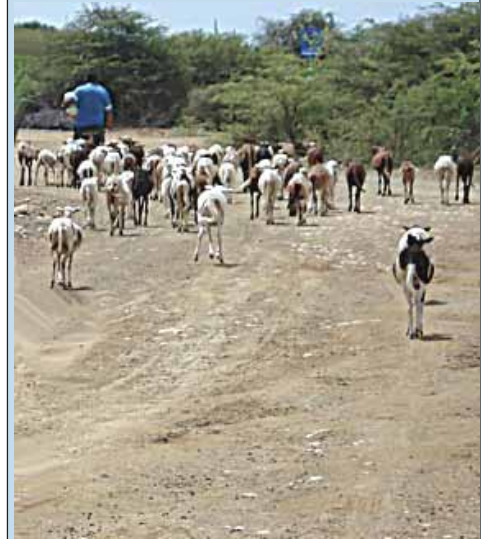


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At the cruise market Jody's Music is one of the stakeholders and always tries to bring in the best music for young and old at the right moment.

BonQuiz #43



BONAIRE'S GOATS

Many years ago when farming was common on Bonaire there were no city limits. A kunuku near Kralendijk (Playa) was tolerated just because there were not as many homes and businesses as there are now. Even today you still see goats roaming through the streets of Kralendijk and the suburbs. Goats don't even seem to be bothered by the traffic and they also seem to know where they are going, even after their bellies are filled, usually around the same time of day.

Question: Any idea why this is?

Answer on page 19

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



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 19.

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

Body Talk

CALCIUM – CURSE OR CURE? ...CONTINUED

By now, we have covered quite a bit about calcium and the problems associated with the absorption of calcium. You have also (hopefully!) checked your own saliva for a possible deficiency (foamy), but let us talk a bit about some of the symptoms associated with a calcium deficiency.

Bone, nerve and connective tissue weakness can be a direct result of poor calcium utilization, resulting in – hemorrhoids, varicose veins, wrinkles, hernias, aneurysms and prolapsed conditions of the bowels, bladder and uterus.

Secondly, thyroid/parathyroid weakness (hyperactivity) lowers or blocks proper calcium utilization. If you are of the age of 40+ (and have foamy saliva), please have your thyroid checked and stop supplementing with a calcium that your body cannot utilize!

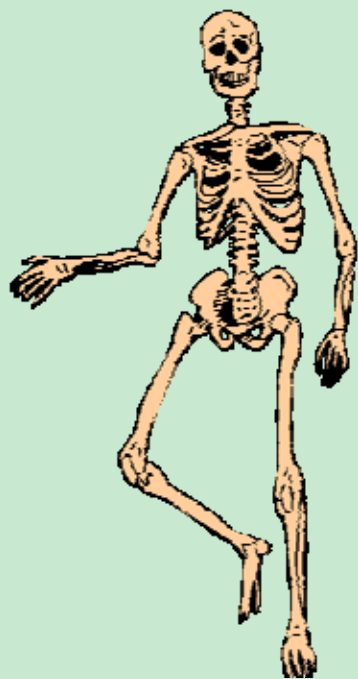
Thirdly, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium must be in balance with each other for proper tissue function, growth and repair. Why do these three minerals have to be in balance? Easy. Calcium and magnesium are your alkaline forming minerals and phosphorus your acid forming mineral. Over-acidity due to your diet will cause a huge loss and even deplete your body of those alkaline minerals! Do you know exactly what is in that supplement you're taking? High calcium supplementation will push out or deplete your phosphorus levels!

Common sources of calcium are kelp, sesame seeds, dark leafy vegetables (the local spinach is excellent!), carrots, oranges, almonds, papaya, sunflower seeds, walnuts, cashews, Brazil nuts, brown rice and most fruit and vegetables. However, most (some!) of us include in our diet – coffee, teas, soda drinks, marijuana, excess salt, cigarettes, refined sugars, alcohol and chemical diuretics that “pull” calcium out of bones and tissue!

Now to get back to what to look out for when buying supplements containing calcium. Make sure the supplement contains the following –

- Calcium Phosphate
- Iron Phosphate
- Potassium Phosphate
- Magnesium Phosphate and

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 the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues. She is the owner of the *Essence Nutritional Center*



Calcium: Not only for your bones

Sodium Phosphate

There is however, an excellent product on the market that contains calcium orotate, combined with magnesium orotate. This combination can pass through cell membranes easily without breaking apart so that it can get to where it is need most – the joints, tissues and cartilage, instead of being flushed out of your system before they can be absorbed. So, if your diet includes any, all or just some of the “naughties”, supplement responsibly! If you do not, your pocket will suffer along with your body!

I personally work with about five different forms of calcium, depending on correcting a specific (and tested for) imbalance. However, taking good calcium supplementation will let you continue with your current diet and lifestyle – GOOD or BAD! We are only human, and often it is easier to “take a pill” than to address important issues related to your diet and lifestyle. Who knows, perhaps you too will make a new year’s resolution for better health. Will it be a new decision or will you repeat the same one you made last year?

Remember, if you keep on doing what you have been doing, all you’ll get is more of what you’ve been getting!

To each and every one of you, thank you for your support, and may the Christmas Season be filled with love and laughter and forgiveness! ■

Stephanie Bennett

Bonaire By Bike



Investigation team, Marga Drewes, front center

The RCN planner for Health, Youth and Family, Marga Drewes, and Celia Fernandes Pedra and Hans Evers of the Ban Boneiru Bek Foundation conducted a preliminary investigation in October into expanding the possibilities for cycling and walking on Bonaire. They were helped by the ABC Foundation and advice from the University of Twente.

They interviewed people in government, tourism, organizations and numerous individuals. They focused on the role of bicycles in the promotion of green tourism in Bonaire, promoting the health of the population through exercise and the contribution of cycling in traffic flow and safety on the roads. Although responses were positive about cycling and walking more on Bonaire, the road safety and congestion appears to be an obstacle.

A solution would be to redesign roads, where some roads would be primarily for cars and others for bicycles. In this way, a network of safe routes to schools, to work and tourist attractions would be provided.

Many other issues emerged that should be considered when drawing up the bicycle and pedestrian plan. Some concerns include the safe storing of bicycles, bicycle and traffic classes, working with companies and the purchase of bicycles. In the coming months, the plan will be developed in detail by a number of student projects on the island. ■

Press release

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See ad on page 2



Bonairean Voices (Continued from page 6)

talent. So parents, if your child has any talent in singing or playing an instrument, don’t hold them back.”

On December 19 you have the chance to see the music school students perform and at the Duo Fest in February on the *Freewinds*. If you want to be part of the Duo Fest festival, contact the music school or Mrs. Emma Sint Jago or Mrs. Marry Tjin-A-Tjoe of the Art and Culture Foundation. Miss Néthanja Bendt said music always brings you to a place of creativity and makes you feel good inside. Many of us have had the same feeling. So those

who have the authority to make changes in our children’s lives and give our youth in the music school what they deserve - which is a new building and new instruments—start working now before it’s too late. The children need you today. ■

Story & photos by Siomara Albertus

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





Potholes-Penny Wise Dollar Foolish

The recent heavy down-pours have made evident the poor quality of the pavements of our streets and roads (See photos).

It's because of the **Pavement Structure**.

Pavements, asphalt or concrete, are structures that react to loads and stresses. When a load is applied to a pavement, such as that produced by transit of a heavy truck, this load is distributed downward through the thickness of the asphalt pavement and the underlying strata.

Potholes occur because of stresses caused by loads that exceed the bearing capacity of the underlying subsoil and cause it to settle. This settlement occurs and is aggravated by what is called "pumping" of the pavement structure. That is by constant, repeated application and release of loads, which draws up the humidity of the underlying soil and contributes to the break-up of the pavement.

Pavements also may fail because the asphaltic concrete degrades because its composition was inadequate (See photo # 4). Asphalt pavements must consist of well-graded aggregates (sand and gravel) to reduce voids and obtain maximum density, mixed with the correct proportion and quality of hot-asphalt.

It is totally useless to repair a pavement that is poorly designed and/or constructed,

and, therefore, incapable of sustaining the stresses it is subjected to as caused by repeated passage of heavy traffic.

To get an idea of what is meant by "bearing capacity" go to <http://bonairereporter.com/potholesdetails.pdf>

The pavement of most roads and streets in Bonaire, except those of recent design and construction (such as those in Sabadeco), are only 3 to 4 cm. thick. Furthermore, no care was taken to control its permeability by using properly graded aggregates. So potholes shall keep recurring, no matter how many times the government deploys "patch-up" brigades.

In general, potholes are being repaired using a cold asphalt mixture where only compacted hot asphalt mix should be used. Sadly, the asphalt recently used to patch up potholes is of such poor quality that it is dismembering only a few days after being applied, and the patched-up potholes are actively reviving.

So, how productive is it to continue to patch up the holes of those poor quality, poorly designed pavements of insufficient thickness with no crushed rock sub-base? If repaired today the potholes shall come back with a vengeance to haunt us next year and, in the best case, the streets shall become increasingly "bumpy" as a result of these repeated repairs (See photos #3).

Let's stop pouring money into this bottomless pit (no pun intended) and start to replace those bad pavements with well-designed, well-constructed pavements, curbs or sidewalks. In the long run it will



1 - Potholes



2 - Potholes



3 - Patch-up



4 - Degradation

probably turn out to be cheaper and shall, certainly, improve the image of our island and of the government that undertakes such a project. ■

Story & photos by Benito Aranguren, Civil Engineer

Go to <http://bonairereporter.com/potholesdetails.pdf> for an in-depth discussion of how and why the roads must be repaired properly. Photos illustrating the article are at <http://bonairereporter.com/potholesillustrations.pdf>.

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Europe For Kid Freestylers



International Fun Board Class Association who totally supported this concept. So I invested some time into the concept, creating a few rules, logo, a website, a judging system and so on. A few months after a meeting was being set up at the IFCA headquarters in Gent, Belgium, including a judging seminar with IFCA President Bruno De Wannemaeker and EFPT (European Freestyle Pro Tour) Race director Tom Hartmann. People from Italy, Germany, France, Holland and Belgium attended the seminar where we and the IFCA President introduced the Kids Tour ideas and concept.

Veteran Bonaire Windsurfing Pro Ruben Petrisie has helped to start something big in the windsurfing world. He says, "The EFPKT (European Freestyle Pro Kids Tour) was created after an idea that was being spread via emails between a few main windsurf industry brands and members at the end of the 2009 season. After a few Pro Kids events around Europe the request for a Euro Kids Tour came up from a few event organizers. I also received emails via the Turkish Sailing Federation because of my influential issues in the country's windsurfing industry and my connections with the IFCA.

After sharing some emails, ideas and thoughts I decided to help out and set up this concept under the roof of both, the IWA International Windsurf Association and the IFCA

I was sure that this concept was needed as it's hard, because of the expense, for kids to go on tour and compete against the radical freestyle gurus. Windsurfing is expensive and less accessible compared to skateboard, kiting, and surfing. Just imagine if in the next years fewer and fewer kids start to practice this sport.

Now the young ones no longer have to wait for years to go on fun tours and events where they can meet and connect with kids from their own age groups. On this tour we also provide informational days if the event's schedule and forecasts allow so, where the kids will learn how to become more pro active from an early stage on towards the start of a professional windsurfer's lifestyle. And of course we always do include fun activities.

Bonaire's PWA new kids on the

10th Annual Lions Club Windsurfing



Awards Ceremony at the 2010 Aquaspeed/Lions Club Windsurfing event

block, Youp Schmidt and Bjorn Saragoza, who competed and won several Pro kids events on national and international levels both already have a few World Champion titles in their pockets. Bonaire has a well known reputation on the global freestyle scene and I would like to advise more locals to keep practicing the sport. I want them to know that they are welcome to join our tour as they also could grasp the Euro title in Pro Kids Freestyle without a doubt.

Those who are interested could simply drop me an e mail : info@rubenpetrisie.com You will be updated on our next tour updates and news. <http://ifca.internationalwindsurfing.com/page0230v01.htm> <http://www.efpkids-tour.com/> <http://www.windsurfermag.com/magazine/European-Pro-Kids-Freestyle-Tour-EFPKT-2010/?params=MnwzM3ww> <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Euro-Freestyle-Pro-Kids-Tour/110641452303605> ■ Ruben Petrisie

The Lions Club in association with the Aquaspeed Club organized a day of sailing and windsurfing competition.

Results of the 28 November Event:

Optimist C

- 1 place Knut Pedersen
- 2 place Oscarino Craane

Optimist B

- 1 place Arnold Wilsoe
- 2 place Merijn van Dongen
- 3 place Max Witten

Optimist A

- 1 place Constrantijn Botterop
- 2 place Niels van Eldik

Sunfish B

- 1 place Dick de Jong
- 2 place Manu Huiskamp
- 3 place Pursey Prudensia

Sunfish A

- 1 place Juan Alvarez
- 2 place Sipke Stapert
- 3 place Santiago Alvarez

Windsurf Slalom kids

- 1 place Jurgen Saragoza
- 2 place Shepherd Gustowski

Windsurf Slalom Juniors

- 1 place Amado Vrieswijk

Windsurf Slalom Men

- 1 place Elton "Taty" Frans
- 2 place Bjorn Saragoza
- 3 place Jeager Sinr Jago

Windsurf Freestyle kids

- 1 place Shepherd Gustowski
- 2 place Jurgen Saragoza
- 3 place Juendrick Anthony

Windsurf Freestyle Juniors

- 1 place Amado Vrieswijk
- 2 place Aldair Koeyers
- 3 place Maxime ven Gent

Windsurf Freestyle Men

- 1 place Elton "Taty" Frans
- 2 place Bjorn Saragoza
- 3 place Hemdryck Balentien

Thanks to the event's sponsors and participants. ■

Story & photo by the Bonaire Lions Club



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An End of an Era—Funchi Bids Ayó



Funchi

On December 4th, over 20 people gathered at the home of Margreth and Jan Kloos to honor Gielmon 'Funchi' Egbreghts for his dedicated service to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). For eight years, Funchi served as a field specialist conducting turtle surveys, monitoring nesting, teaching Bonaire's youth about the importance of turtles to our island's environment, and acting as a good-will ambassador for the organization.

It was our pleasure to host the party for Funchi," explained Jan Kloos. "I was the treasurer for STCB when he was hired. Funchi considered me his first boss because I was the one who wrote the checks! We quickly became good friends."

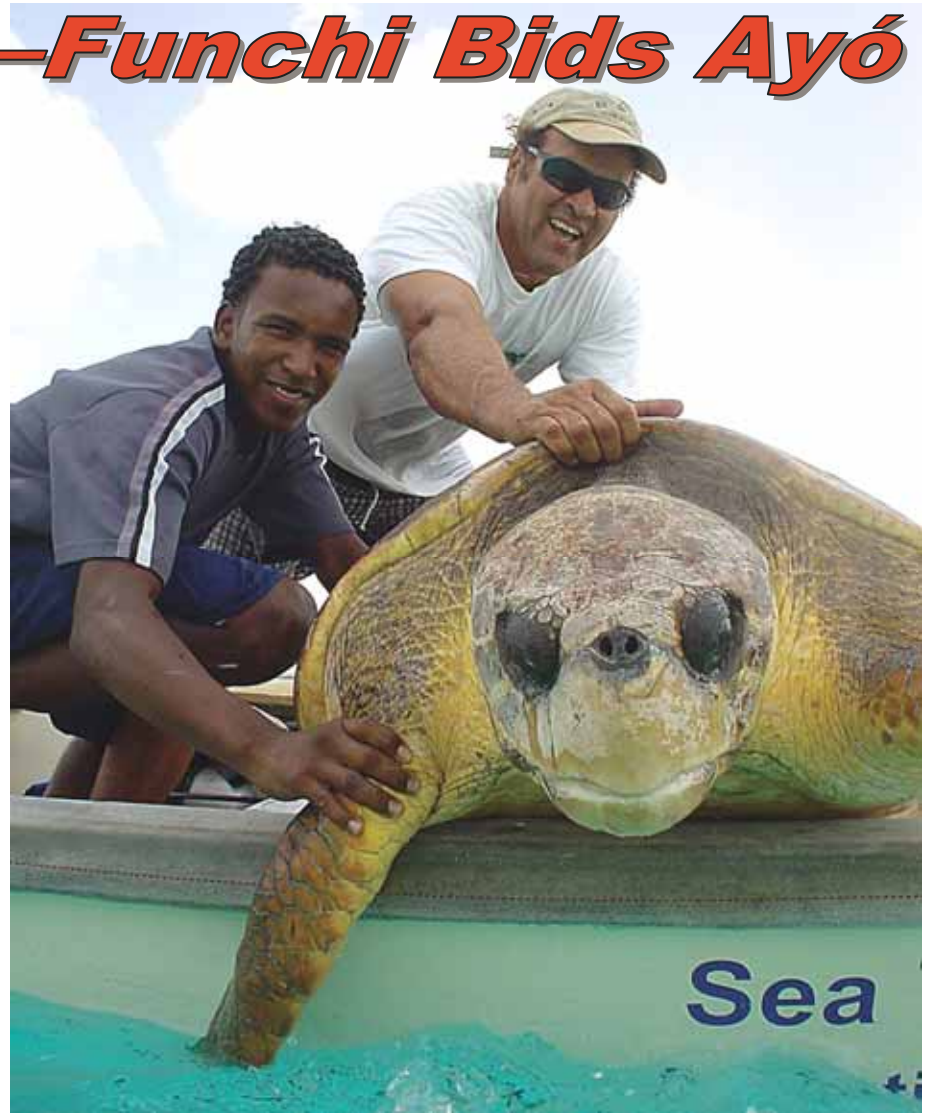
About this same time, I, too, became friends with Funchi. Back in 2003, I was visiting Bonaire for the first time as a tourist. I was enjoying the day at Donkey Beach when I noticed a tall, inquisitive man searching the sand. As he ap-

proached, he asked, "Have you seen any turtle tracks today?" Thus, began my friendship with Funchi Egbreghts. Not only did he instruct me in the fine art of finding turtle nests that day, but he also peaked my interest in sea turtle conservation. When I moved to Bonaire several years later, I became an STCB volunteer and have since spent many days on the water with Funchi. It is the place where he feels most at home.

"What we have here is a gift—the reef, the sea," explains Funchi. "I think it is amazing. I've spent my whole life with it. It is very important for the Bonaireans and the conservationists to make this a priority to save it. It is not as healthy as years ago."

Funchi should know. He has a historical perspective that few possess having spent years as a fisherman bringing in fish and diving for lobster. He was known to even catch an occasional turtle now and then. But when STCB came calling in 2002, he decided to change careers.

"The transition from fisherman to conservationist was not hard. I have always loved animals. Other fishermen started seeing me like the police in their eyes, but we kept it at a joking level. It was important for STCB to have that connection to the fishermen. Since those early days, things have changed. Now fishermen bring me injured turtles so I can bring them back to health."



Funchi Egbreghts and Iki-Sluis with Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Besides helping injured turtles, Funchi has been central to STCB's annual, in-water surveys. Twice a year, turtle counts are conducted. A number of turtles are also cap-

tured and then ID tagged, weighed, measured and released back to the sea. The data collected is critical for understanding

(Continued on page 11)

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Funchi Ayo (Continued from page 10) turtle populations over time and making responsible environmental decisions. But it is also arduous work. The entire coastline of Klein Bonaire and the leeward coast of Bonaire is surveyed. This involves swimming miles along those long stretches of reef and sand, looking for turtles. Additionally, turtles are netted in Lac Bay where, after the data is collected, the animals are returned to the bay. During the in-water surveys, Funchi and others dive to capture turtles and sometimes that can be risky.

“The most dangerous part of the job was diving with a pony tank to great depths of 100 to 120 feet,” explains Funchi. “One time, outside the reef at Lac, I dove down for a hawksbill turtle at about 120 feet and started to bring it up. My air ran out at 90 feet, so I let the turtle go. I blew air out from my lungs the rest of the way up. It was a *very* long way to the surface. Also, during netting, it is easy to get tangled in the net when trying to bring a turtle to the boat. There are always risks, but you just got to live your life.”

Funchi has lived his life to the fullest while working for STCB. The organization sent him to a symposium where he met with others from around the world doing sea turtle conservation. He visited other islands such as Puerto Rico’s Mona Island and the Aves and Los Roques archipelagos of Venezuela. “The turtle world is big out there.” Funchi also tagged 1,200 turtles and counted nearly 25,000 turtle eggs during his time with STCB. “That’s a lot of counting!”

Even with all that experience, this turtle expert could still be surprised. “The biggest turtle I ever encountered was a male loggerhead. It probably weighed 400 pounds and was nearly five feet long,” says Funchi. “He used to hang out on the east coast near Spelonk. I never named him because every time I saw him, he scared the hell out of me. I would never have remembered his name. These turtles are harmless to humans, but loggerheads are very curious and this guy was huge. He would always come very close and surprise me”

Funchi’s favorite times, however, were those days he spent on Klein Bonaire looking for turtle nests. This is Bonaire’s prime nesting area, which Funchi simply refers to as ‘my island’. “Walking on the beach on Klein Bonaire was the best part of my job. To go look for a turtle nest is like going to look for a treasure. Even though you know you are going to find a track, you don’t know where the eggs are. That’s very interesting to discover.”

Joining him for many of the nest counts was STCB volunteer and visiting yachtswoman, “Red” Berger. For nearly three years, three times per week, she and Funchi walked the shores of Klein Bonaire looking for signs of sea turtle nests. “Every time I was out with Funchi, it was like a nature lesson,” says Red. “He shared all his knowledge from the tiniest crab to the biggest bird. He taught me oceans of information. And the kids loved him too. When he showed them Klein, they would follow him down the

beach like a pied piper. They hung on his every word.”

Klein Bonaire was also the stage for a visit from Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands several years ago. When she arrived by boat, a short ramp was set out so that the Queen would not get wet going to the beach. Funchi had built the ramp for the occasion. “That part of the visit didn’t go too well,” remembers Funchi. “The bridge sort of broke when she was half-way down. Luckily, a marine was there to grab her. Plus, she wore flip-flops so she was prepared to get a little wet. That was very clever of her.”

The plan was to have Queen Beatrix tag a turtle as part of the ceremony, but she hesitated because she thought it might hurt the animal. Funchi explained to her that it was no more painful than someone getting one’s ear pierced. He then saved the day by offering to do the actual tagging while the Queen held his hand as he operated the tagging pliers. The newly tagged sea turtle was then named after one of the Queen’s grandchildren. This event turned out to be the highlight of Queen Beatrix’s visit. “Somebody can win thousands of dollars in a lottery, but never meet the Queen,” laughs Funchi. “That was a special experience. Plus, the Queen held my hand!”

Another event worth noting was the day Funchi had a guest, a potential funder, aboard the STCB boat, the *Nancy Too*, during a turtle survey. “We found a huge loggerhead just sleeping on the reef. I went down to 30 feet three times to pull him up with no success. I had to get a second tank since I had run out of air. Finally, we got him to the boat. He was big, about 300 pounds. The loggerhead bit the boat on the way in. My guest was so afraid of the turtle that he perched on the far point of the boat’s bow, shaking. But he still wrote the check!”

I will miss those times on the water with Funchi aboard the *Nancy Too*. His bad jokes, infectious laugh and good spirit were always a lot of fun. Funchi now plans to spend more time on land, developing his animal farm kunuku for the children of Bonaire to enjoy. But he still is concerned for the island’s natural world.

“I hope that conservation foundations include locals in their decisions in the future. Bonaireans have a lot of important, local knowledge. They need to be included and not taken advantage of. It has to be a fair exchange. It can’t be a one-way street.”

Looking back on his eight years with Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Funchi has mixed emotions. “I will miss the rhythm, being part of something, going to Klein, walking the beach. I will miss those things. But I am very proud of what I did. I have no regrets.”

Written by Patrick Holian for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, STCB Photos



Church On the Rise

The International Bible Church, the only church on the island that has all its services in English, is reaching its final push of NAf 20,000 in building their new church across from Maduro Bank in Hato. The budget was set for NAf 200,000,

plans were obtained from a local architect and construction was started last year. As the church building progressed, so did the membership. Enthusiasm is high among its membership, and the church building is 85% complete, thus far without a loan. Since the membership started so small, it took a lot of creativity to think of ways to raise the money necessary for construction. A local egg farmer donated his manure pile to the cause and the church members, mostly kids, pitched in and filled bags which were sold to all the local gardeners on the island, who know that chicken manure is the best fertilizer on earth.

Many English speaking tourists who find the church on the island are using it as their center of worship while on Bonaire, and they have been one of the largest contributors to the building fund. Many of the local merchants have a promotion of their businesses called Fun Miles. Customers who buy from these merchants are awarded points on their Fun Mile cards and the points can be redeemed for additional merchandise. Many of the members are now converting their points to the church card, and the church is using it to purchase building material from the local merchants. The Island Government has decided in January, to go to the US Dollar and so the month of



Church members Michael Gaynor and Donna Gassert

December has been set aside to convert the local island guilder to dollars. It was suggested by one of the church members to build a box, and knowing that many people unload their pockets at bedtime and keep a change bowl near their bed, ask those who are interested in putting their guilder change from their little bowl into the special box seen in the picture. Michael Gaynor, along with others, built the box to resemble a church building and had it painted by local artist Janice Huckabee to collect all guilder change and apply it to the building fund. Michael is in the process of the big change dump, and standing by is the bean counter, Donna Gassert, looking on and adding her expertise to the occasion. Pastor Baron of the International Bible Church is thrilled at the progress that has been made in such a short time and he attributes it all to the blessings God has given to the church. He is looking forward in the not too distant future to have the church open to all who want a special blessing by attending the services. He says with God’s continuing blessings, the church will move into its new building early next year.

■ Bob Lassiter



Kriabon Open House

There was lots of action at last Saturday’s open house at Kriabon, the Bonaire Farmers Co-op. Besides the display of goats and pigs there were booths selling vegetables and ornamental plants, goat cheese, hand made cards, solar panels, local food and drinks. And good exchange of information.



Aletta van Beek and Peter de Boer offered samples of delicious hand-made goat cheeses

⇐ Young girls bought plants



There was a drawing for these two fine goats. ⇒



Harbourtown Realty Grand Opening



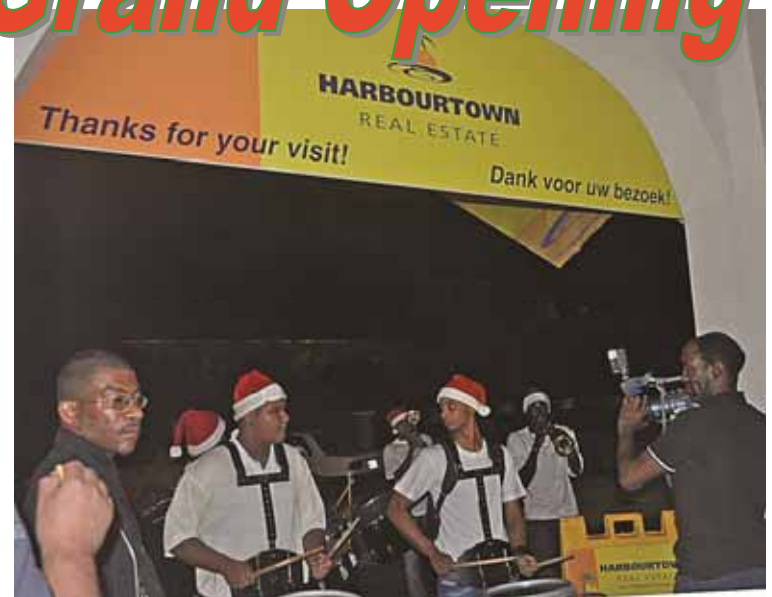
Some of the Harbourtown Staff: Frank Nelissen / Daniëlle van Nes / Kees van Dartel / Iris Mayer / Ben Kooman / Renée van Dartel / Bob Beswerda / Mark ten Hoopen / Marjolijn Eillebrecht

What is in store for Bonaire's economy in the future? If you ask the folks at Harbourtown it's increasing prosperity for the island as evidenced by their modern and efficient new office on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The emphasis on openness and computer displays is refreshing and can help make the selection of a new home a pleasant experience.

On Thursday, December 9, the new office opened with an evening blowout party and reception. The staff was on hand to mingle with the guests and add to the festivities.

As part of the event a significant donation was made to Father Ramiro Richards Pentecostal church, the *Baranka di Restorashon* (Rock of Restoration), for its initiative to provide food for Bonaire's neediest people for the holidays. This initiative is known as *Saku di Pasku* and probably even better known by everyone doing their Christmas Shopping since they are asked for a donation of groceries at the entrance of each supermarket!

The Harbourtown and of course their clients' gift to his campaign proves that many Dutch people sincerely care about the welfare of the island's people. ■ G.D.



Drums and Brass punctuated the opening of Harbourtown



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MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Hutch 185cm h by 125cm w by 65cm d \$ 700; **Coffee table** 110 cm by 110cm by 38 h cm \$ 450; **Side table** 41 cm by 110cm by 79 h cm \$100

Two Twin beds \$250 each; **Abstract paintings** Call 786-2692

2 cars Must sell. 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier, only 49,000 miles \$4,500 1998 Ford Escort \$2500. or best offer. phone 786-1789



Bonaire youngsters took home three medals from the November 27 Dutch Caribbean Karate Championship held in Curaçao. Competing at a high level Miguel Pietersz took the silver medal in his class and Theursten Winklaar took bronzes in the 78

kg. and open categories. Bon Karate Sensei Peter Silberie was most pleased with the results. Thanks to sponsors Caribbean Laundry and Budget Marine who helped make the trip possible. Press Release

**Writers/Reporters
Wanted**

(paid by the word)

Email: george@bonairenews.com

The island's Bridge Club is looking for new members, all levels.

Every Wednesday from 7.30 till 11 p.m. Location: Kaya Amsterdam (Sporthal). Costs: NAf 2,50 p.p.p. evening. Call Renata 796-5591.



Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 17		02:11 / 0.04 ft	09:43 / 1.01 ft	19:05 / 0.02 ft	22:11 / 0.09 ft	6:49	18:14
Sat 18		02:12 / 0.04 ft	10:17 / 1.06 ft	20:01 / 0.05 ft		6:50	18:14
Sun 19	00:07 / 0.04 ft	01:46 / 0.04 ft	10:55 / 1.10 ft	20:50 / 0.11 ft		6:50	18:15
Mon 20	11:36 / 1.13 ft	21:31 / 0.16 ft				6:51	18:15
Tue 21	12:21 / 1.13 ft	22:06 / 0.20 ft			Full Moon	6:51	18:16
Wed 22	13:07 / 1.11 ft	22:36 / 0.22 ft				6:52	18:16
Thu 23	13:57 / 1.05 ft	23:02 / 0.23 ft				6:52	18:17
Fri 24	05:41 / 0.31 ft	07:45 / 0.30 ft	14:48 / 0.95 ft	23:29 / 0.23 ft		6:53	18:17
Sat 25	05:42 / 0.45 ft	10:09 / 0.34 ft	15:43 / 0.83 ft	23:55 / 0.22 ft		6:53	18:18
Sun 26	06:09 / 0.61 ft	11:58 / 0.30 ft	16:40 / 0.68 ft			6:54	18:18
Mon 27		00:22 / 0.21 ft	06:43 / 0.79 ft	13:30 / 0.22 ft	17:41 / 0.53 ft	6:54	18:19
Tue 28	L Quarter	00:51 / 0.18 ft	07:21 / 0.95 ft	14:52 / 0.11 ft	18:45 / 0.38 ft	6:54	18:19
Wed 29		01:21 / 0.16 ft	08:02 / 1.08 ft	16:05 / 0.01 ft	19:52 / 0.25 ft	6:55	18:20
Thu 30		01:51 / 0.12 ft	08:45 / 1.17 ft	17:13 / 0.08 ft	21:04 / 0.15 ft	6:55	18:21
Fri 31		02:22 / 0.08 ft	09:30 / 1.22 ft	18:18 / 0.15 ft	22:14 / 0.11 ft	6:56	18:21

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BOINAIRE ON WHEELS
José Alfredo Miranda and his extended dragster bicycle

The 81st 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+



José Alfredo Miranda sitting on the unique and sleek dragster bicycle, created by Tio Memo. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

Bonaire/Hato – His name is José Alfredo Miranda and he lives in the neighborhood of Hato at the corner of Kaya Groningen and Kaya Den Haag. José Alfredo Miranda was born in Curaçao. His age is 12 and he is a pupil of the *Scholengemeenschap* Bonaire (SGB). He is the proud owner of a custom made extended dragster bike with an overall length of 260 centimeters.

José Alfredo has an uncle named "Tio Memo." Tio Memo has his own workshop behind the *Scholengemeenschap* Bonaire. It is Tio Memo who created the extended dragster bike.

José says, "We started with a normal BMX bicycle from the Family Store. The bike was new and completely original. Then my Uncle Meme converted it into a stretched vehicle. First he cut the original frame into two pieces, then he started welding a construction of new hollow square pipes between the front end and the rear wheel. He did a good job on the welding! The modified frame was sprayed

black with so called 'Max Primer.' Then we mounted the rear wheel, the front wheel, the steer and the saddle again."

The four axle mounted side pegs came with the original BMX bicycle, but it takes very long legs to reach the rear pegs. Original one-speed sprockets are used. Tio Memo and José Fernando bought 360 centimeters of new

chain at **De Freewieler** in Kralendijk. This bicycle shop has several rolls with tens of meters of new chain. The rear brake cable also had to be extended. And again Tio Memo and José found the right parts at the local bicycle shop. Modern V-brakes are mounted to stop the front and the rear wheel. Of course the front brake is the big stopper. The poison green sprayed 10-inch wheels kept their original "Kawasaki color." Slim black 1.75 inch tires are mounted. Chrome handle bars and a chrome saddle pin are mounted. Hand grips are black and produced by Royal Union. The customized bike looks neat, sleek and mean. Color scheme is black, chrome and green.

Road holding of this single-speed freewheeled black flash is good. Maximum speed and cruising speed depend on the driver. Cornering is something completely different. It takes one of the three Bonairean roundabouts to turn right or left or to turn completely. There is no reverse mounted. Luckily the seat is mounted relatively low. On a normal road it takes some time, experience and guts to turn around. This special is equipped with parts that are essential for a bike like this. No lights, no mirrors, no alarm and no jiffy stand. By occasion the pedal is used as a side stand. A nice and unique bike. Another individual expression of Bonairean craftsmanship!

■ Jan Brouwer



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
 New public health care introduction 01.01.11

All residents of the islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius (Dutch Caribbean) as of 1st of January 2011 are provided a new mandatory health insurance Public Dutch Caribbean Health Insurance. Concerning all inhabitants of Bonaire who have a private health insurance (Ennia, Fatum, Nagico) and all government officials who have the right to a 2nd or 1st class hospital treatment.

On November 29th we have been informed that the insured is entitled in all cases to a third class room in case of hospitalization. Inclusion into a higher class is only covered if it is medically necessary. The treating provider will determine the medical necessity of a higher class. In the case you own a private health insurance that provides you with a second or first class room it is important that you have the possibility to keep your insurance since our surrounding islands (Curaçao and Aruba) and South America will keep the 3rd class insurances in case of hospitalizations.

Various insurances have notified the public that private health care is not necessary any longer, anyhow it could be possible that some of your specifications are not included in the government health care package. If you disagree on ending your private health insurance we will help you through this procedure. As independent broker we are in a (better) position to help you find the best policy and the best carrier to serve your health insurance needs and address any concerns about any pre-existing conditions or coverage issues when upgrading the health insurance is possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact us, to discuss your complete health insurance coverage needs and the best policies for you, a quote on your health insurance or any questions you may have. Send us an email so we can contact you. (no obligations)

Sincerely,
 Pensioen & AO Desk N.V.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Fridays and Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10 am until ship departure.					
Day	Date	Ship	Arrive	Depart	PAX Cap
Thu	Dec-16	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016
Fri	Dec-17	Friday Market	0900	1400	Market nly
Mon	Dec-20	Aida Vita	0800	1600	1260
Wed	Dec-22	Marco Polo	0900	1700	850
Thu	Dec-23	New Amsterdam	0700	1600	1918
		Caribbean Princess	1100	2000	3100
Fri	Dec-24	Grandeur of the Seas	0700	1600	2446
		Ventura	0800	1800	3100
Fri	Dec-31	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016
Every Sun. through Tues.	through Spring 2011	Scientology Freewinds	0630	2200	150

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Wednesday, December 15 -

***Celebration of the Day of Nort'i Salina** sponsored by the Nawati Foundation, at the Nort'i Salina Centro de Bario, from 10 am to 11 pm.

***Dinner for the Elderly (Grandinan)** at Sunset Bar & Grill

Friday December 17—

***Referendum voting.**

Saturday, December 18—

***Farmers' Market**, outside Go Green Shop in front of church in Playa, 8 am-12 noon.

***Holiday Concert** at Plaza Resort. European & traditional Antillean Christmas music. (page 20)

Sunday, December 19-

***Kaminda di Arte**, 11am-5 pm, visit artists in their homes or studios (page 19)

***Rincon Christmas Market**, 2 - 10 pm, Rincon Plaza Commerce (page 19)

***Music School Concert**. Christmas Music, 2-5:30 pm, Plaza Hotel, free. (page 6)

Tuesday, December 21—Moon Eclipse, Winter Solstice (page 23)

Saturday, December 25- Christmas Day, Some shops will close early on December 24 and be closed on December 27 to observe "Boxing Day."

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 -- Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, every Monday she's on-island at 8:30 pm in the

Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

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.
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**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.
Toastmasters Club meets every **two weeks**. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: *Kralendijk*, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10am.
Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papi-

ART EXHIBITS

Wil Dijkstra Exhibition, Plaza Resort, until April 1, 2011

Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) December 19 and every third Sunday of the month until June 2011, 11 am to 5 pm. Visit artists' homes and studios. Information: Karel de Regt: 717-5785 / 788-4477, karel@flamingotv.net, or Fred v.d. Broek: 788-2536, fredvdbroek48@hotmail.com

Call For Appointment

Driftwood and Art by Germaine Nijdam, Kaya Onix 1, Republiek, Santa Barbara. 717-2203, 786-1714, Email: gnart@bonairenet.com

Fine Art & Portraits by Renate van der Bijl, 717-6500, www.renatevanderbijl.com

JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, 717-5246

José Atelier, Kaya Aleksandrit 6, Republiek, open Saturdays, 10-3 Tel. 785-6670

mentu, 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 Salina, 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.

Send event info to:
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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

Insel Air- The Dutch Caribbean's own international airline.

Efficiently run, convenient schedules, low fares and non-stop to Miami.



APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS



City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Free service and in-store financing too.

ART & GALLERIES

Germaine Nijdam's Artwork is internationally displayed. She is currently specializing in driftwood furniture and related art pieces.

The Richter Art Gallery, located in Belnem, is Bonaire's only fine art gallery, and features original paintings, limited edition archival art prints, and hand made jewelry created by long-time residents Linda, Jake, and Krystyana Richter.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

BOOKS

Reef Windows is Captain Don's latest book and features the true stories of the naming of many Bonaire dive sites. A great souvenir as well.

CARS AND BIKES

BoCar sells several top brands of cars and provides maintenance and mechanical and body repair for your car no matter what brand.

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CONSTRUCTION

Total Home Sustainable Building Products stocks a large collection of European quality hardware. **Call 701-7011**, above Caribbean Homes Realty

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

DINING

The Brandaris Café is the top-notch, spotless downtown restaurant for local, kriojo and Venezuelan food. Go once and you'll make it a habit.

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

Lunchroom de Bonairiaan—Breakfast & lunch prepared and served by Stichting Project students under professional guidance. Monday-Friday, 9-2. Kaya Gob. N. Debrot, opposite Divi Flamingo.

ON & IN THE WATER

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

Dive Friends has four dive schools and two retail shops so you always get the best deals and assured of top notch training.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

Captain Don's Plants, Trees and More sells genuine acclimated Bonaire plants. Take a 30-minute tour too. Strong plants for strong Bonaire gardens.

HEALTH

Go Green—Tina Woodley's new shop, in the building in front of the church in Playa, offers healthful and tasty products, many of them from Tree of Life



Harmony House—Using science to find the problem. Using natural products to correct the problem.

Also *Essence* range of herbal teas & handmade soaps. At Kaya Papa Cornes 2

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

HOME CARE

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

PHOTO FINISHING

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. **ScubaVision**, Kaya Grandi 6, see website scubavision.info or YouTube

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS



Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. And now Yachts!



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

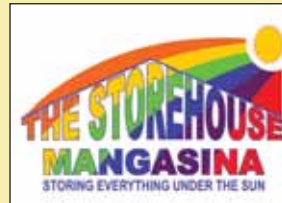


Harbourtown Real Estate has extensive listing of Bonaire properties of all kinds. They can help sell your Bonaire home too. Visit their new office.

RETAIL

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

STORAGE



The Storehouse (Mangasina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage For Vehicles, Household Items, Diving And Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across

from the northern hotel row.

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(ISLAND) TOURS

Christie Dovale will personally take you on a fascinating tour of the island. Contact her via her website: **IslandToursBonaire.com** Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456. You will remember it always.

WEB & INTERNET SERVICES

BITS (Bonaire IT Services) is tops for Web design/ Graphics, Data Base and E-Commerce, sites Internet Marketing, search engine optimization and more.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor I or II*. Hotel pickup. Easiest landing on Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

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Letters to the Editor

CMB THANKS AND SPANISH IN THE REPORTER

Dear Editor and Publisher:
On behalf of the Classic Music Board Bonaire, I want to express our gratitude for featuring our recent and forthcoming musical events so prominently and positively in *The Reporter*. It is only with this sort of public attention that we are able to reach many Bonaireans and Bonaire visitors who will most appreciate the sorts of musical events that we, through our sponsors, are able to bring to the island. We very much appreciate your support and thank you for it.

I also personally applaud your current steps to bring a written Spanish voice to our island. For those of us native English speakers who have a second language, it is most likely to be Spanish. But until now there has been no way for local Spanish writers to be published for bilingual Anglophones or even for themselves. Huzzah for *The Reporter*! I think you will very likely reach a new audience with this approach.

LOST OPPORTUNITY

Dear Editor,
As known, local media maintain the myth that the overwhelming majority of the Bonairean people is against the "immoral Dutch laws" which will be introduced in the framework of the new status of our island. They just ignore the fact that less than 1% of the inhabitants showed for a demonstration against these laws.

As I already have proposed in the past, during the coming referendum the people could be asked their opinion about these laws (separately for the right of women to abort, right to euthanasia and same sex marriage). In this way, the costs of the organization of the referendum would not be totally squandered.

Jiri Lausman

MY PRETTY FLAMINGO

Dear Editor
The hype is over, the deal is done & the people have got what they want. Bonaire becomes the Dutch Caribbean & is about to say 'ayo' to the NAfI.



Why is it then that so many people feel like they have just woken up next to a \$10 whore after a night on the town? Is this to be the end of Bonaire as we know it?

Over the last few years, Bonaire has been under attack from all fronts. Mass tourism, the expansion of Cruise Ship numbers, development, oil spills, pollution, reef damage & a rising population. Despite all of this, she still stands proud, like a jewel in the Caribbean ocean defying her many assailants. Now, her reward is to be stripped of her identity, currency & probably her heritage.

How long before Papiamentu becomes extinct? How long before Rincon is ploughed into the ground to make way for new developments? How long before the reef is destroyed through overpopulation & how long before Playa is just a parade of Western fast-food outlets & tacky shops. The big question is; 'How long before Bonaire becomes Aruba'?

Every Caribbean island was once a precious jewel before the West moved in. Ever since explorers sailed from Europe & the Americas, we have exploited these islands and their people. The indigenous have been enslaved, abused and used in our pursuit of profit. While foreigners own hotels, resorts, ocean front mansions & flash cars, locals still live in wooden houses, have no public beach & have to be grateful for the pittance that they earn as waiters, cleaners & cooks while their 'masters' get rich. The chains may have gone but the pecking order remains. I fear for the future of Bonaire. I fear that the 'Pretty Flamingo' island that charmed me with its slow pace, its gracious people & its unique landscape is in danger of being lost forever. I truly hope that I'm proved wrong.

Tony Bond

"Zwarte Piet" Healed At BonFysio



The "Zwarte Piet" had his share of bad luck during his arrival on Bonaire! While stepping off the boat in the pouring rain with a lot of presents in his hands, he twisted his knee. After this incident he was not able to bear weight on his leg and even had to walk with crutches! This could have disturbed the distribution of the presents on Bonaire! Fortunately

the Piet had a good idea and visited the therapists of BonFysio now located at the BonBida Spa. After his treatment and some tips and exercises he even came dancing out of the building. Our reporter was able to shoot some pictures of his visit and also the dancing Piet who was able to distribute the presents to the people of Bonaire after all! ■ Press release

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Smokey Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee



Once again Bonaire neighbors get together for an amazing trip. Nadine and Murray Rubin of Florida, Terri and Joel Frazier from Atlanta, and Karon Breyman from Bonaire did a one week motorcycle trip through The Smokey Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. The trip was led by Buell Racing Champion and friend Chris Carr. Pictured here with *The Reporter* at the famous "Tail of the Dragon" which has 318 turns in 11 miles (17.7 kilometers). The southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway is the highest point in the mountain range, with amazing vistas and waterfalls. ■

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

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Reef Windows
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows will be available in reputable book stores and shops around Bonaire by Captain Don

Travel back to the exciting, early days of Bonaire diving. To make you part of these adventures, I have included my Captain Don red ribbon depth gauge as a handy bookmark. Come diving with me and learn the true stories behind the names of Bonaire's dive sites.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
cruise tourism from about 50,000 passengers to 250,000 passengers a year.

► **MIAMI--The 2011 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be nearly as busy as the one that just ended**, Colorado State University (CSU) meteorologists predicted last week. The forecasting team anticipates 17 tropical storms, with nine of those strengthening into hurricanes

The recent rains have ponds at LVV that hold sewage pump-out water cannot hold any more so an alternate site at Porto Spano is being used.

► **THE HAGUE--The container-style cells that are used in Bonaire to lock up detainees are not inhumane and comply with all international norms**, stated Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Piet Hein Donner. The Minister stated this in response to written questions by Member of the Second Chamber Cynthia Ortega-Martijn of the Christian Union (CU). She feared that the container cells would be inhumane.

The fact that the cells will not be equipped with air conditioning should not be a problem, stated Donner. He explained that detention centers in the Caribbean seldom had air conditioning, but that the wind provides sufficient cooling. A roof will be placed above the containers to block the sunshine. The front and back of the cells will have bars, not windows, to provide sufficient cool air. "The open structure fits within the detention culture in this area and sufficiently guarantees quality of detention," Donner said. See related stories in this issue for more information.

► **AMSTERDAM--Among European cities, Amsterdam has the biggest problem with congestion. Amsterdammers have the longest average travel time, 31.5 minutes, to their work, it was reported last week.**

The situation in Amsterdam could be even worse if The Netherlands was not such a big cycling country. In Amsterdam, 23% commute to work by bike, compared with an average of just 2% elsewhere.

There are no statistics on the average commute time for Bonaire. However, there is an initiative in Bonaire to make cycling safer and more convenient. See story on page 7.

► **THE HAGUE--The Dutch Ministry of Education, Science and Culture OCW has reserved an additional two million euros for school facilities in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The an-**

nouncement was made by Education Minister Marja van Bijsterveld-Vliegenthart.

► **On Wednesday, December 15, the Nawati Foundation will present a Celebration of the Day of Nort'i Salina at the Nort'i Salina Centro de Barrio**, from 10 in the morning to 11 at night, according to Foundation President Gielbert Alberto. The program consists of different typical aspects of the culture of the barrio. There will be presentations of Maskarada, dancing groups, Mariachi and other musical groups like Grupo Eso, Krioyo Kids, Grupo Nuevo Cachimbo, Grupo Bari and Glenn i su Gèng. And, as always, lots of good food and plenty of beverages. Everyone is invited.

► **One of the best festivals on the island, as only the Rinconeros can do it, is the Rincon Christmas Marshe**, sponsored by the *Komishon Marshe Rincon*.

This year it's on **Sunday, December 19, from 2 in the afternoon to 10 in the evening** at the *Plaza Commerce* in the middle of town. In honor of the season there will be entertainment with a krioyo flavor, and stands selling gifts, food and drinks.

► **An Albert Hein Supermarket is coming to Bonaire.** Dutch businessman Gerard van Tweel of Holland will be opening an Albert Hein Supermarket here in Bonaire similar to the one in Curaçao. Economic Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe commented that this investment in Bonaire shows a very positive action and confidence in the Bonairean economy. The date of the opening was not given.

► **Beaujolais Nouveau Chateau Cambon 2010 is here!** Thanks to Antillean Wine and Food Company (AWC) the new Beaujolais is on the island and had its formal introduction last week. An eagerly awaited event, every fall in France, at the same exact time, trucks carrying the new Beaujolais leave the area to distribute the new young wine to all of France and the rest of the world.

For the last decade and a half Bonaire has been on the distribution list and its appearance on the island has always been an exciting happening. One year it appeared on the *Samur* as it sailed in to the marina, another year it emerged from the sea in front of the old Den Laman restaurant, once it arrived in Orlando's Bonaire Motorcycle Shop's antique car. This year the presentation was at El Mundo restaurant.

A limited number of bottles of the fresh wine is available at AWC. For delivery call them at 560-7539, email wine@antilleanwine.com or fax 717-2950. Or stop by their shop on Kaya Industria, just down the road and across the street from Warehouse Bonaire.



► **Orphaline Saleh, deputy Director of MCB Bank Bonaire**, known for its generosity to the community, recently made cash donations to all of Bonaire's primary schools.



► **During the Kaminda di Arte this Sunday, December 19**, you will have an opportunity to visit the homes of 19 artists on the island as they open their doors to the public from 11 am to 5 pm. Art includes paintings, wood sculptures, glass mosaics and more. This Karmindi di Arte will occur every third Sunday of the month. For the map and route email Karel@flamingotv.net.

► **Don't miss the first Farmers' Market this Saturday, December 18 from 8 am to 12 noon, behind the Go Green Healthy Food Supermarket**, in front of the church in Playa. Find Christmas plants, green and healthy things from the island, gifts. ■

G./L. D.



► **One of Bonaire's most embarrassing eyesores will soon be history.** The mammoth Quonset hut at Sunset Beach that was erected to showcase a Divi resort that never happened is coming down at last.

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

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BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 8)

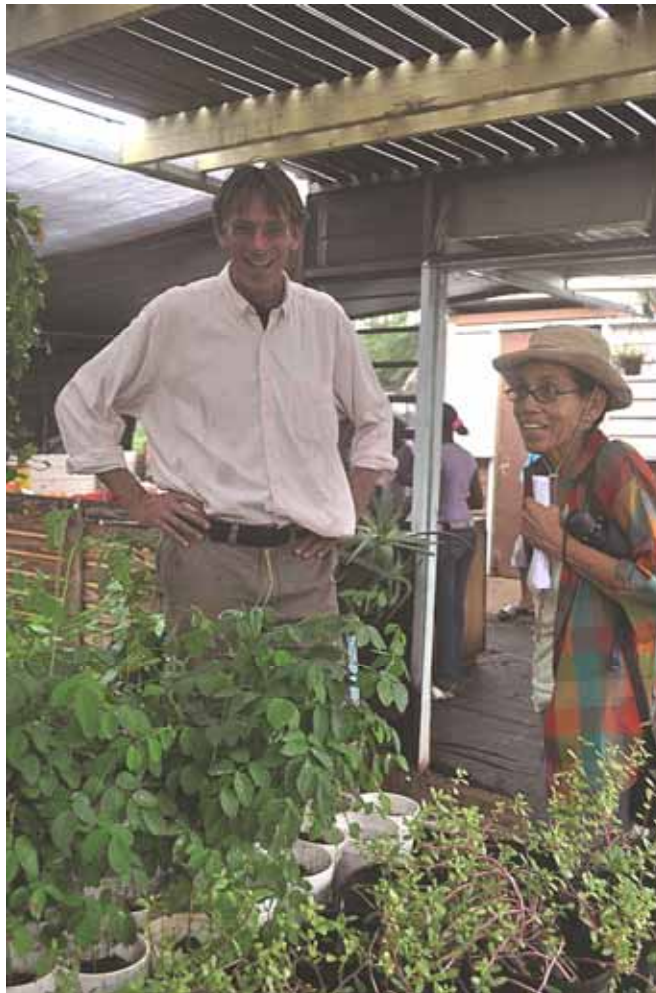
Questions:
Why are goats along Bonaire roads?

Answer
Because goats were once herded along regular routes they have grown accustomed to these routes and times, with or without a herder.

Kunuku Kids Show Their Stuff



At the rainy ribbon cutting was Deputy James Kroon, Senaida Janga of Jong Bonaire, Gemar Bernabela and Edshel Martha of Mata di Fruta.



Jan Jaap van Almenkerk of the KibraHacha Foundation with "Master Gardener" Maria Koeks of Soldachi Tours



Merigeni Coffie gave an impressive tour of the field vegetables

Heavy rains, leaden skies and soggy mud didn't deter crowds of people arriving to visit the first "Kunuku Kids" open house at the "Mata di Fruta" on Saturday, December 4.

Officially called, "Youth on the Kunuku," the group of 35 draws on the experience of older people, kunukeros and other professional growers. The kids learn about the nature, agriculture and culture of Bonaire. They've visited **Aletta's Goat Farm, Wien's Chicken Farm, Green Label, Elijah Fish Farm and the Butterfly Farm.**

It's sponsored by **KibraHacha Foundation** in cooperation with **Jong Bonaire** and the **SGB**, with funding from **AMFO** and **Samenwerkende fondsen**, and sponsored by **Green Label, Kooyman and Lovers Ice Cream.** At the ribbon cutting, **Deputy James Kroon** remarked that it was a delight to see kids doing something with nature rather than playing with Ipods and video games.

That Saturday the greenhouse, fruit tree nursery and the field of vegetables was open to the public and the kids proudly showed their produce and explained how they raised it. Visitors, clomping through the mud, saw the wonder of the peanut plant, drank fresh fruit shakes and ate fruit salad, saw the exhibit of plants and trees with identification labels and could buy plants to take home..

The pride that the kids showed in their work was impressive.

Was it a success? Absolutely! As **Senaida Janga** of Jong Bonaire says, "This is why I do this. I want the kids to eat more vegetables and fruits." And the kids have proved it to themselves that they can not only grow them but eat them too! For more information visit their website (in Dutch). ■ *L.D.*



The fresh fruit smoothies were awesome!



A proud Kunuku Kid, Zakeesha Hellement



Kunuku Kid Michaella shows off giant cucumber

December Holiday Concert.

Don't miss Bonaire's second annual December Holiday Concert on **Saturday, December 18 at 7:30 pm at Plaza Resort Bonaire's Cacique Hall.** It features local musicians performing classical European and traditional Antillean music (rhythmical songs of tumba, krioyo, simidan, bari, waltz and danza tradition) – all "with a taste of Christmas."

Guest keyboardist **Felix Faassen** will join his father, **Hans Odin Faassen**, in a special rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach. **Gebby I Su Streanan**, a well-known local band, will play Antillean dances and Christmas music in classical tradition. The group's leader, **Cabriel (Gebby) Seleh** on piano will be joined by **Hubert (Ibi) de Palm** on guitar and bass; **Roberto (Papachi) Salsbach** on kwarta and bass; **Norbert (Norbis) Goyla** on wiri, rasp and maraca; and



Genaro Anthony, percussion will play conga, timbaal and compaña.

Local prodigy pianist **Grep Linkels** -- just eight years old -- will perform a piece for four hands by Fritz Spindler. Bonaire's renowned **Silver Bullet Steel Band** will perform a repertoire of instrumental melodies of local and Caribbean composition. **Tutti Frutti**, the "Pearls of Rincon," will perform a medley of Bonairean rhythmical songs with a special program for this concert.

Tickets available on line at www.ClassicalMusicBonaire.com for NAf 30 each; children accompanied by parents, NAf 10. Tickets may also be purchased at Addo's Books & Toys and Flamingo Bookstore (Kaya Grandi), and at the reception desk at Plaza Resort Bonaire. ■ *Press release*

Cover Story *Animal Shelter Auction*



About 300 people gathered for the Bonaire Animal Shelter Auction last Saturday night at Eddy's at Sand Dollar. NAf 15.000 was collected! Bids were on art pieces, flights over Bonaire, meals at restaurants, hotel stays, trip to the National Park... even old dive tags.



Open for Business! Paul Wichers, Shelter Chairman of the Shelter Board



Master of ceremonies Rene, Margon and model Amada keep things moving



⚡ Serious bidders
Not so serious bidders ⇨



Photo by Greta Kooistra

Pet of the Week

Here's Bonaire Animal Shelter volunteer Sherman, enjoying his work in the cat cage, especially the part where he gets to hug the cats like little Priscilla." It's volunteers like Sherman who help to keep the Shelter cats and dogs social so that they make perfect adoptees. Thank you, Sherman!

Pretty little Priscilla, one of the darling calico cats, is about a year old. She was brought in with her siblings because her owner just had too many cats! Hopefully, the mom has been sterilized so that that won't happen again.

As you may know, most calico cats are female. Just a rare few are male. Calicos are not a breed; it is a color pattern and three colors must be present: black, white and orange. A "true" calico has large blocks of these three colors. According to veterinarian Janet Tobiassen, the reason they are nearly always female is due to genetics. Coat color in cats is a *sex-linked trait*, a physical characteristic (coat color)

related to gender. Female animals have two X chromosomes (XX), males have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome (XY). The genetic coding for displaying black or orange color is found on the X chromosome. The coding for white is a completely separate gene. Since females have two X chromosomes they are able to "display" two colors (orange and black, or variations thereof) and white, creating the 3-color calico mix. Since males have only one X chromosome, they can only be orange OR black. It is more complicated than simply having the color genes -- it is a complex process of dominant and non-dominant genes interacting on the X chromosomes, but that is the basis for coat color for calico cats.

Stop by the Shelter on the Lagoen Road to meet all the healthy and very social animals. They're open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: WWW.Bonaireanimalshelter.com. ■

Laura DeSalvo



"Priscilla" with volunteer Sherman

Bubbles From the Biologist

Did You Know?...

That we, as divers and snorkelers, can decrease damage to corals by using always the same entry and exit points at our favorite dive sites? As we enter the water on our way to explore the sea, we can actually damage corals before we put our masks on to take a look around. In our excitement to discover what lies beneath the waves, we sometimes trample on newly attached corals that are trying to make a come back in our shallow waters around Bonaire. Not so long ago there were lots of branching corals along the shoreline, but they are mostly gone now due to a disease that swept through the Caribbean and Hurricanes Lenny and Omar took their toll as well. Carefully chosen entry and exit paths can decrease your chances of falling and creating even more accidental injuries to the shallow corals. Now there is something you can do to make entries and exits less dangerous to you and to the corals.

Students at CIEE Research Center (www.cieebonaire.org), in collaboration with STINAPA, have been placing yellow rocks at dive sites to mark entry and exit sites. The locations of the rocks at entry/exit areas have been selected using scientific methods to determine paths that will cause the smallest impact on the surrounding marine life and are safest for the divers. The rocks are currently in use at several sites along the leeward side of the island, including 1000 Steps, Andrea II, The Lake, Hilma Hooker, Angel City, Alice in Wonderland, Salt City, Invisibles and Red Slave. CIEE hopes to mark more sites in the future as a service to the community and will need help from you to let us know if conditions change – so that the best entries/exits will be updated following storms



So, next time you're out on a dive, remember to look for entry/exit markers! By preserving the reefs, we can ensure that future generations will be able to know and love Bonaire for the same reasons we do. ■ Ian Kroll

Ian Kroll is a junior majoring in Biology, with minors in Mathematics and Literary Forms, at Vassar College in New York. He is currently studying at CIEE Research Center Bonaire and hopes to become a veterinarian specializing in marine mammals. Amongst other things, he will greatly miss the beautiful island sun when he is forced to return back to the frigid



CIEE photos

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Christmas Dinner and Christmas Eve



December 24 and December 25

The Rum Runners team wishes everybody a Happy and Tasteful Christmas and New Year

For the holidays we are offering some extra special bites

On Christmas Eve
We are serving a variety of fresh Fine Claire Oysters
 (limited availability, reservations recommended)

- * **Raw**
on the half shell
- * **Rockefeller**
Gratinated with a mixture of parmesan, anchovies & Spinach
- * **Nam Kee**
Steamed with a mixture of black bean sauce, sesame, soy and scallions

On the 24th and 25th
We will serve our always surprising Christmas Menu
 (reservations are recommended)
This is in addition to our regular a la carte menu
The pizza temple will be open as usual

New Years Eve
Ends with a big bang & bubbles at The Deco Bar and Habitat
When the clock strikes twelve

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 Email: rumrunners@habitatbonaire.com

At Rum Runners we do our utmost best to work with fresh ingredients only. However being on small remote island means that these are not always available if this is the case our chef will adjust the dish accordingly. For this we ask your understanding.



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Get Ready for Next Week's Total Eclipse of the Moon, You Won't See Another One for Four Years

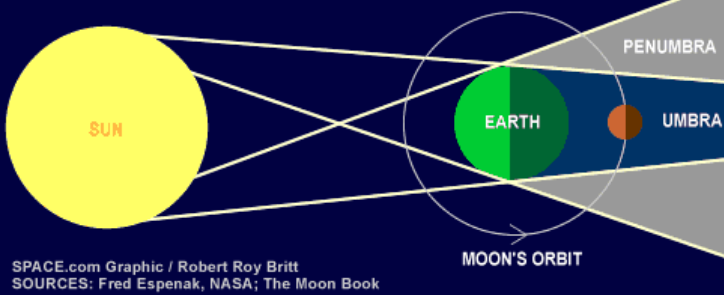
On Tuesday morning, December 21st, the full Moon will pass through the shadow of the Earth and produce a total eclipse of the Moon. The next total lunar eclipse that we can see won't happen until April 15, 2014. This lunar eclipse will be on the same day as this year's **Winter Solstice**. During totality the Moon will be above **Orion the Hunter** and surrounded by the brightest stars of winter.

Let's imagine that we're out in space looking at our Moon, Earth and Sun. Now moonlight is really light from the Sun reflected off the Moon and back to our Earth. One half of the Moon is lit up by the Sun at all times, although the only time we see the half of the Moon that is completely lit up is when we have a full Moon which occurs every month whenever the Moon is directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. Now usually when we have a full Moon the Moon is either above or below the plane of our **Earth's orbit** and passes above or below the shadow.

Now occasionally the full Moon will glide directly into the plane of our Earth's orbit and will pass directly through our Earth's shadow, which will block most of the Sun's light from reaching it. In other words, our **Earth's shadow** will eclipse the light of the Sun, which is why we call such an event an eclipse. But during a total lunar eclipse the Moon never completely disappears and always turns some unpredictable shade of reddish orange. And that's because the red rays of sunlight are bent by our Earth's atmosphere into our Earth's shadow, filling it with a faint reddish orange light. So during a total lunar eclipse the reddish orange Moon color you see is actually red light from all

Anatomy of a Lunar Eclipse

A total lunar eclipse can only occur at Full Moon, when Earth blocks the sunlight normally reflected by the Moon. Some sunlight is bent through Earth's atmosphere, typically allowing the Moon a coppery glow. This diagram, not to scale, looks down on the solar system from above.



SPACE.com Graphic / Robert Roy Britt
SOURCES: Fred Espenak, NASA; The Moon Book

the sunrises and sunsets around the world being bent, into our Earth's shadow and onto the Moon and then reflected back to Earth again.

Now if we look closely at our Earth's shadow cone we would see that there are two distinct parts to it. A pale outer shadow called the **penumbra** and a smaller inner, dark shadow called the **umbra**. When the Moon is in the penumbra the eclipse effect is not very noticeable. **So I suggest you start watching when the Moon begins to enter the umbra at 2:32 am Sky Park Time.** As time passes, the umbra, our Earth's circular shadow, will slowly creep across the Moon and gradually darken it and cause it to change color. The Moon will be within the umbra and **totally eclipsed for an hour and 13 minutes.**

But this year as a bonus during totality you'll see the Moon in the middle of the **Winter Hexagon**. The closest bright star to the red Moon will be the red star **Betelgeuse** in **Orion**. Not much farther away you'll find the red star **Aldebaran**, the menacing eye of **Taurus the bull**, the constellation that is hosting this lunar eclipse. Nearly overhead is the pair of stars named for the twins of **Gemini**, **Castor** and **Pollux**. Off to the left of the Moon is **Procyon**. Then, well down to the left of the Moon will be the brightest star in the night sky, the dog star **Sirius** and closing the Winter Hexagon, **Rigel** in **Orion**. So pray for clear skies Tuesday morning, the 21st. ■

Dean Regas, Cincinnati Observatory



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For December 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. It's time to make professional changes. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting; however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home. Concentrate on work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't lament to a friend about any grievance regarding your mate, or it may be hard to rectify your relationship. You are apt to meet someone special on your journey. You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. Use your inventiveness to find solutions. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Emotional partnerships may develop through projects you initiate. You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere. Don't gamble unless you can afford to lose. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't overindulge in anyway. You may find that your plans will cost a little more than you had expected. Difficulties may be encountered while traveling in foreign countries. Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Use your added discipline to get what you want. Pamper yourself; the self esteem it brings you will be most gratifying. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your high energy must be directed into productive goals, or frustrations will occur. Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something. The emotional state of peers may cause a problem for you. Don't overspend on friends or children. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You're on

the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this month. Changes regarding your career direction will payoff handsomely. Someone you live with will get angry if you are neglecting your duties. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Emotional up and downs have caused doubts in your personal life. Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. Money may slip through your fingers. Emotional upset may prevail on the domestic scene if you have neglected your duties or your mate. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Offers of joint ventures are likely. Don't spend too much in order to impress others. Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Don't expect support from your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life. If your lover tries to curtail your freedom, it may lead to conflict. If it can make you extra cash, it will be even better. You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can set your goals and make a beeline for your target. A day at the beach may satisfy the whole family. this month will be hectic. You will have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your concern with older family members and those less fortunate than yourself will only add to your attractiveness. Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Social activity with friends and relatives will be most successful. Unexpected romantic connections can be made if you go out with friends or take a pleasure trip. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

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