

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE March 11-25, 2011 Year 18, Issue 6
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Karnaval Grand Parade Photos
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Election Results, Conservation Reports,
Windsurfing and more- all inside

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOONRE The REPORTER

A Center for Youth and Family in Bonaire is one step closer to reality. The Dutch Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS) and four local institutes for educational support signed an agreement to that effect. The Center will be located at Princess Plaza. VWS will pay the rent and facility cost for the next 10 years.

Commissioner Jona Chirino, VWS interim secretary general André Kleinmeulman and representatives of SEBIKI, Porta Habri, Bonaire Youth Care and Youth Healthcare signed the agreement at the RCN office and set the opening of the Center for Youth and Family by this fall.

The purpose of the Center is for parents and children to have a free and available location for information and advice on upbringing and growing up. The four organizations have developed a vision. The Bonaire Government will make the same amount available to the four organizations as it did in 2010.

► WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's airport will likely increase its landing tax and passenger departure fees. Apparently the new terminal has many problems caused by faulty construction. The current fee for international destinations is \$32, then it's \$8 for flights within the Dutch Caribbean and \$2 for transfer passengers. The current proposal suggests a \$5 increase across the board. However, it was agreed that residents of the ABC Islands would not pay more than \$10. For what flights it wasn't stated.

► Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe recently met with Aruba's Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber to discuss reducing the airport tax on flights to Bonaire. The Eman Cabinet had already agreed to lower the amount to \$20 per passenger effective February.

► Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe also announced an agreement for Telbo to provide one computer and internet service up to 4 mega-

bits per second, in addition to an MiTV cable television connection with a full-open package and an LDC flat screen TV free of charge to all the island's Sentro di Barrios.

► InselAir has started an interior upgrade of its fleet. Starting with its three Bandeirantes 110s, InselAir has replaced the two-person bench-type seats with single seats with a tray table and updated the avionics. This will be followed by upgrades of the five MD-80 jets.

► Former Bonaire resident and art teacher, artist Heleen Cornet

(photo), now living on Saba, returned home last week after an accident suffered on Saba's Mount Scenery on February 11. She had camped for more than five days with her husband Tom van't Hof, who was key to the founding of the Bonaire Marine Park, when they decided to break camp and return home.

As she was descending the Mount Scenery trail she slipped on the rain-wet rocks. Falling backwards, she flew over, landing on her head, and rolled into a ditch dug for the electricity and communication cables. Her husband called the hospital. Medical personnel were immediately alerted as well as the Police and Fire Brigade, which came promptly to the scene.

She was taken by a medical evacuation plane to St. Maarten. Doctors there found that one of her vertebrae was compressed, but that nothing was broken. However, she was kept under medical observation for almost a week to eliminate the possibility of a brain hematoma.

While still recovering and under medication, Cornet wanted to thank all involved in her rescue, especially the medical emergency



Michiel Bijkerk and Benito Dirksz share a light moment at their joint press conference

► In a Bonaire election with many "firsts" two political parties formed a coalition almost before the election results were official. In a rare 8 pm, Friday, press conference at E Terras, the snack owned by Mr. Dirksz, the leaders of the new parties' winning seats on the island Council, the MBL and the PHU, announced they would be working together, had informed the Island Governor and signed a protocol agreement to formalize the relationship. As far as could be determined, this was a "political first" for Bonaire.

The agreement pledged transparency, a solution to corruption and to stimulate the welfare of the Bonairean people. They want to improve government efficiency for better service and to stimulate the Bonairean economy. They foresee a three-party government for the island and pledged not to break the protocol without mutual consent.

The final election party-tally of 4-3-1-1 did not afford much leverage to the new parties. Bijkerk was quoted as saying, "We would need at least two seats if we want to achieve our goal." With this coalition the goals can be achieved.

When questioned as to which party the coalition would join the leaders were noncommittal. The joke was that there is always the possibility the UPB and PDB, bitter rivals in the past, would themselves form a government.

team in Saba, which had proven its efficiency and care, she said.

► The new special Dutch special municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be receiving the new Internet domain suffix of .bq (dot bq), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) reported in its latest newsletter. ISO is the authority that maintains and issues Internet suffixes. In a newsletter that was issued late last year, ISO had already indicated that the suffix .an (dot an) for the former Netherlands Antilles would be



removed.

Curaçao will receive the suffix .cw (dot cw), while St. Maarten will receive the suffix .sx (dot sx). Although Bon-

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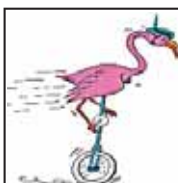
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Bonaire Island Council Election Results

UPB Patriotiko Head: Elvis Tjin Asjoe	PDB Demokrat Head: Robby Beukenboom	PHU-Unity and Justice Head: Michiel Bijkerk	MLB Head: Eric Soliana	MBL Head: Benito Dirksz
3037 votes 4 seats	2514 votes 3 seats	651 votes 1 seat	521 Votes No seats	821 votes 1 seat

Four parties will sit on Bonaire's Island council this year to choose a coalition government as Bonaire drifts toward the Dutch multi-party model. These is indicated by the results from Wednesday's election, the first since Bonaire was integrated into The Netherlands 10/10/10. Voter turnout was 74%.

The "Union Patriotiko Boneriano" (UPB) of Ramosito Booi (3,037votes- but Booi retired following the election) won 500 votes more than the Democratic Party (PDB) led by Robby Beukenboom (2,514) to take **four seats** on Bonaire's Island Council. The PDB won **three seats**. The new parties, the "Movimentu Boneiru Liber" (MBL), led by Benito Dirksz (821 votes), and the "Pro Hustisia Union" (PHU) of Michiel Bijkerk (651 votes) **each won a single seat**.

Changed election rules dropping the requirement for "residual seats" from 100% to 75% of the valid vote count divided by the total number of seats (628) allowed these two new parties to get on the Council.

A third new party, "Lista Soleana," did not win enough votes to earn a seat.

Since it is unlikely that the two long-established party rivals, the UPB and PDB will form a government, the new MBL and PHU will be key in forming a coalition on the nine-member Island Council (see opinion on page 15). ■ G.D.

Interestingly, the non-participation of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in the March 2 Dutch elections have brought into question the legality of the recent Dutch elections. Experts are saying that the Dutch First Chamber cannot legally represent the islands when they are excluded from participation. According to the experts the **laws already approved by the Second and First Chamber for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba were "constitutionally inadmissible" because of non-representation of the islands in both Parliaments.**

Martijn Linnartz, Constitutional and Public Law researcher at the University of Leiden, said that the representation of the islands had proved to be a "fairy tale." "I agree that Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba should seek justice in this matter." He said the islands had a chance at the international courts. "It only takes one person to stand up against this in an international court," he said.

A member of the Dutch Parliament, Cynthia Ortega-Martijn, who is from Curacao, a few months ago proposed special seats in Parliament for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, a system similar to that of France which has special seats for its overseas territories. The islands were promised representation in the Second Chamber last year, but that has not come to pass. **The BES islands are governed by Parliament but have no representation in either of its two bodies.** ■ G.D.



Boards at the Passengrahn showed interesting details:
 -Robby Beukenboom, PDB, won the most votes overall.
 -Clark Abraham outpolled all PDB candidates except Robby.
 -The UPB's biggest vote-getter was **Elvis Tjin Asjoe**
 -Michiel Bijkerk was the candidate with the largest percentage of any party's total votes.



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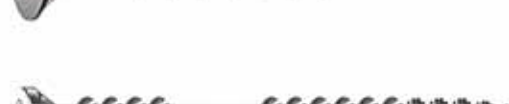
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On the Island Since... October 2007 - Wendy van der Kaag

“We went on a vacation to Curacao as Sylvester had been stationed there for a year with the marines before we met. When we went diving, there was this ship wreck called *Superior Producer* at a depth of 30 meters and it was there that he asked me to marry him. Then, on our honeymoon we made a combined trip to Curacao and Bonaire and I fell in love with the island. Its slow pace, the outdoor life, the way things happen spontaneously and especially the climate was a big issue for me because the gloomy and grey Dutch weather doesn't do it for me – it doesn't make me happy.

In Holland I was working as a doctor's assistant for Arbo Unie, somewhat like the SVB doctor here, but bigger and more diverse. They do a lot of periodical medical check-ups on, for instance, police officers and fire fighters. The last couple of years I specialized in doing check-ups on professional divers. Sylvester was working for an electronics company and together we had a dive center in Kattendijke in the province of Zeeland for five years. So, we were busy!

We didn't come head over heels to Bon-

aire. First I had the idea to come and live here for six months a year and have someone run our dive center during the time we were gone. But then I didn't think it would work out. I started thinking of moving here all together. Sylvester wasn't completely convinced. He thought it was a big step, so we came up with the idea to give it a try for three months.

We rented a place on the boulevard and went diving at Yellow Sub and they immediately wanted us to work for them and so we did. Three months later we went back to Holland. It felt terrible and I had a hard time getting used to life in Holland again. We were in the process of finishing our house there, so we couldn't sell it until it was ready. For six months we worked very hard, then we put our house up for sale. And believe it or not, half the village did the same thing at the same time! Even the news papers reported about this village where almost all the houses were up for sale. Strangely enough we sold our house within two weeks. And a year later, when we were already settled here, we looked it up on the internet and saw that all the other houses were still for sale. I just think it just had to be!

We had rented a house through the internet but immediately we started looking for a place of our own and we found it here at

“Because it's a small island with not too many people you get to know almost everybody. That's something I like.”



Siomara Albertus (a colleague) is ready to give blood to Wendy van der Kaag

the very edge of Nikiboko.

When we arrived, both of us started working for Yellow Sub, but in July 2009 I began to work for Bonlab. I really, really like my job! For the main part it's taking people's blood – something I love to do.” She laughs, “But I also do some receptionist work. Our laboratory is in Playa, but we also have a location in Antriol and Rincon where we just take people's blood. In Antriol we're open every day from 7 to 10 am and in Rincon we're open twice a week for two hours. We – Jair, Hellen and I - take turns going to the different locations. My colleagues are great! I do speak

Papiamentu fairly well and it's a must when you do this job because you need to be able to communicate with the clients. Because of my work and the interaction with the people I feel I am much more integrated into the community than when I was working as a dive instructor working with tourists.

At Bonlab we're a team of 10 people and a director. We're very, very busy. We've bought new equipment and made many improvements, so nowadays very little material has to be sent to Curacao. We can do almost everything here on

(Continued on page 5)

							
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On the Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

Bonaire. I work for the lab from 7am to 1 pm, five days a week, but I also work on call as an inside tender at the decompression tank. Mainly it's about divers who get the bends and I go with them in the tank for six hours to take care of them if necessary. But we also get patients whose condition can be improved by hyperbaric treatment. It's not a regular job. They call me when they need me and I am one of a team." *We go outside to the porch to take a photo of Wendy and Sylvester as he has to go to work. They sit down on the floor together with their dogs.* "This is our little family," Wendy says. "In Holland we didn't have pets and I wasn't into it at all, but when we came to live here, they found us. Now, when I am driving I look at all the dogs in the street and I think, 'Look what a cutie goes there!' We've got three dogs and three cats. They've adopted us! Our little one is Gizmo and he's a bit shy, Pieper has only three legs and is very social, Rody is extremely protective of us and doesn't like other people – she bites – it's a bit of a hassle but we've learned to live with it." *After the somewhat chaotic photo session Sylvester goes off to work and we sit down inside again.*

"There's something else I'd

like to talk about," Wendy says and her face lights up and she becomes very enthusiastic. "I was working out at Rosita's 'Fit for Life' at the Plaza when she started with Zumba lessons. Zumba is a workout inspired by Latin music and dances like Salsa, Merengue, Reggeaton, Cumbia, etc. I thought it was great fun and when the person who was teaching us left for Holland I decided I wanted to do it so I went to Miami to get certified. Now I am teaching Zumba lessons at 'Fit for Life' and Wednesday evenings at Bon Bida gym in Hato from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. That's my own thing! So," she laughs, "if there are any people who would like to give it a try – come over and see if you like it! People can come to watch or participate immediately. At the moment I have a group of seven people but there's room for more! It's \$8 per lesson, but when you buy a ticket for 10 lessons you only pay \$60, \$6 per lesson. I love to dance and in a way it's dancing, but you do it alone, not with a partner. Anyone can do it, although sometimes Europeans have to loosen up their hips a little bit. It's a matter of time. I had to learn it too and it took me a couple of months because I used to be quite stiff! It's an effective workout; you burn 500 calories per lesson. I've lost six kilos since I started. It's a

100% regular workout, but because of the music and the dancing it feels like you're having a party. One hour is gone in no time! The reason why I am teaching is so I can never say, 'I'm not going,' because I'm a little lazy at night. However, during the last year I found out I really love to teach; it's so much fun!"

Wendy is a very stable and reliable young woman with a lovely attitude towards life. She's open minded, friendly, social and calm. "When I'm free I like to float in the pool and I spend a lot of time with Sylvester. Every week we go for an afternoon to the beach with the dogs to chill and we make a barbecue. I walk the dogs every day and spend quite some time with them as well.

Sylvester has had his own company for about a year, Sylvester's Maintenance. He's specialized in electrical and plumbing work and it's going very well. (svdkaag@live.nl)



Wendy, Gizmo, Rody, Sylvester and Pieper

We bought our house some three years ago and we've fixed it up ourselves but... working on your own house is a never ending job.

I don't miss Holland except for family and friends. It's a fine country, but the weather is an absolute deal breaker.

I am very happy we made the decision to live here. We love and enjoy every minute of it. Because it's a small island with not too many people you get to know almost everybody. That's something I like. For many peo-

ple it's the opposite – they like to be anonymous. To me it feels familiar and pleasant. And... Bonaire has so many beautiful places. I fell in love with the island and I always compare it with falling in love with a man: When you have doubts it won't work out, but when the feeling is right, it's meant to be and that's how it is to me."■

Story & photos
by
Greta Kooistra









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Bonaire's Fish Are Safe To Eat!



Med student Luna Amelingmeier with sample. Test kit is shown in the inset.

As part of their research projects, and to check up on our fish, two groups of students at Saint James School of Medicine have measured the mercury levels in four of the top predatory fish species from Bonaire's waters. They looked at **wahoo, mahi mahi (dorado), tuna and barracuda**. In each case, they checked at least six individual fish, and for wahoo and mahi mahi at different times of the year as well.

But why did they think there might be enough mercury to worry about? Well, just like other poisons, mercury gets concentrated to higher levels as you move through the food chain from plankton to big fish, so the top predators would be the ones most likely to show mercury, if it

were there.

Why mercury though? Other research around the coasts of the US has found high mercury levels, enough to be toxic, especially in tuna. And some of those were high enough to be above the FDA cut off for eating! OK, many of the contaminated fish were in the Atlantic or Pacific, but quite a few were in the Gulf, so a lot closer to home.

Surely, most of the mercury comes from US industry and so doesn't get here? Very true, but the US isn't the only place using mercury. It's used in gold mining as well, and over the last few years there's been an increase in illegal gold mining in both Venezuela and Brazil, so potentially Bonaire could be contaminated by the run off getting into their rivers, and then into the sea.

So what did the students find? Good news! At least for the present the mercury levels in our fish are way below any level to worry about. **Wahoo, mahi mahi and barracuda had an average mercury level 40 times lower than the FDA cut off; and even tuna was 10-20 times lower than the FDA limit.** The problem with mercury is it stays in the system for a very long time and takes quite a while to get from the plankton to the big fish, so in a decade or so we may have something to worry about, but in the meantime you can carry on eating all those beautiful fish, fresh from our sea, and not have to worry about mercury at least! ■

Story & photos by Bruce Davidson, Saint

Spinning at Bon Bida!

If you've been curious about trying those notorious Spinning classes, here's what you need to know, whether you're taking a Spinning class for the first time or the 50th time.

What it is: Spinning is a specific format of indoor cycling. Spinning is a cardio (aerobic) workout set to music and led by an instructor. Spinning is great for people who want a motivating workout that they can control at their own pace. Even if you're not into choreography-based fitness classes, you can still enjoy Spinning because it involves neither rhythm nor complex moves. It's low-impact, so it's very suitable for people who want to balance out higher-impact exercises (like running) or for **people who have some joint problems its easier than ever to get a vigorous workout, burn your calories and keep your muscles in shape.**

Spinning is a group workout on exercise bikes led by instructors who guide participants through a series of phases, from warm-up to more challenging phases, to a period of peak effort followed by a cool down. Using instructor's cues as guidelines, it's up to you to work out at your own level and pay attention to how you feel. You can recover, go slower, use less resistance, or vice versa depending on how hard you want to work. In a class format, everyone feels a bit of pressure to keep up. However, Spinning is non-competitive. Especially if you're a beginner, remember that it will take a few weeks to build up your fitness level to be able to work hard for the whole class. It's important to honor your body and work at a lower intensity as you get the hang of it.

What to bring: At least one water bottle (trust me, you'll need it!) and a towel for all that sweat. The intensity of the workout will be influenced by your pedal rate, the resistance of the bike's flywheel and by the rider's body position, as you either pedal from a seated position or rise from the saddle. The music and the instructor will guide you. Enjoy getting fit! Tel. 717-7224 to find out more. ■

G.D./Press release



Spinning cycles at Bon Bida Gym
Bon Bida Photo

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BONAIREAN VOICES

HELP PRESERVE OUR BONAIREAN CULINARY HERITAGE

For a long time our Bonairean food has been enjoyed by many people from all over the world. During Rincon Day, April 30th, you will notice a lot of people sampling the mouth watering stews, soups and grills. You can find all kind of platters: the famous goat stew, iguana soup, the Cucu (a kind of cactus cooked in an underground oven) and all kinds of sea food, including the conch.

For years the conch has been protected here in Bonaire, so what we usually eat is imported conch. Bonaire in the past was a center for exporting conch and other kinds of seafood to the neighboring islands on a daily basis. Evidence of this are the piles of conch shells you see at Lac Bay.

Without good control and the cultivation of this conch, it's at the brink of extinction. So what is STINAPA doing about this matter? Well this year STINAPA, together with DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), the Netherlands Postcode Lottery and other sponsors are making as a goal a project to conserve the conch.

Diana Sint Jago (49), the Project Pride coordinator, tells us more about the project.

"It's a project more about the restoration of Lac Bay and the conservation of the conch is also included. The scientific studies have been done by Sabine Engel, a marine biologist, and Park Ranger Gavy Soliana. Every conch must be studied and tagged. The water channels through the mangroves need to be restored to maintain good circulation of the seawater in those areas. The conservation of the eco-system in Lac Bay is a must for the survival of the different species there. The Foundation Rare Pride had been providing different project guidelines for this project for it to be a success.

IUCN selected three countries for this project: India, China and Bonaire. The Awareness Campaign has produced four films that you can follow on 'Youtube-conch restoration project Lac Bonaire.' Stickers, buttons and a jingle have been produced to make people conscious of

protecting the conch.

The conch is protected all over the Caribbean, but unfortunately some Caribbean islands don't enforce their laws for its protection, with the consequence that conch reproduction is diminishing. The Bumper Stickers campaign is for one year, with attractive prizes for young and old.

We've been working on this project since last August. We realize a lot of people are aware of the laws and only a few don't respect the law and do a lot of damage to the conch colony.

A conch takes four years to become an adult and to reproduce, but before reaching that age if the conch is caught illegally and destroyed on a regular basis you can imagine what will happen to the conch: **It will disappear.**

This project takes three years with hopes that we can increase the protection. Every season the mature female conch can produce a mass of about 400,000 eggs. About 4,000 survive against predators. As conch larva they need to swim against the current to seek protection from being eaten by turtles, lobster, octopus and stingray.

After some months or a year the conch is considered a juvenile. If those that survive the journey are being caught by humans, then there is nothing left for reproduction. So our strong slogan is: 'LET THE CONCH REST.'

Maybe it's not possible for us to eat our Bonairean conch today, but at least our offspring will have the opportunity to taste it."

Of course our Bonairean conch is the



Playa Flamenco photo

best, but we need to protect it, otherwise our descendents will never know what a real Bonairean conch stew or grilled conch tastes like. ■

Siomara Albertus



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



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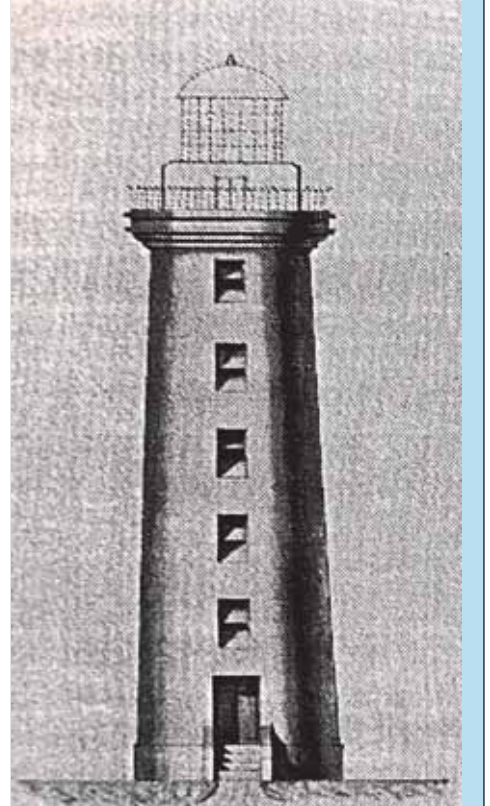
BonQuiz #48

Willems Toren Light House



Naval Captain Cornelis Schrijver

Scans of old documents by Bòi Antoin



Its first stone was laid was on March 22nd 1837. Kerosene soaked cotton wicks were used and lit by individuals who took turns climbing the tower each afternoon as the sun set. The ruins of the house still stand west of the tower. This is where the men lived and alternated their tasks of maintaining the light every two weeks or so. One hundred years earlier something extraordinary happened...

Q) Can you tell me what this was?

Q) Who is this light house named after? (Hint: It's not the man in the photo.)

Answers on page 17

Christie Dovale



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: christiedovale@hotmail.com.

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DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
 aire, St. Eustatius and Saba have become a part of The Netherlands, they will not be included in the suffix for the Netherlands, which is .nl (dot nl).

►Tired of empty shelves in the supermarkets? **What Bonaire needs to make it more self reliant is a port crane** like the Liebherr LHM 400 mobile harbor crane (photo) to handle shipping containers at the port. This model is Panamax-sized with a lift capacity of 105 tons and a reach of 48 meters. Ships from the US and The Netherlands could speedily unload and load dockside in Bonaire and bypass the Curacao bottleneck.



Perhaps one of the major Dutch ports has one they would like to offer?

►The Prosecutor's Office in Peru is seeking a 30-year jail sentence against Dutch murder suspect **Joran van der Sloot**. Van der Sloot is still a suspect in the disappearance of US teenager Natalee Holloway who was last seen in his company on Aruba in May 2005.

His Peruvian lawyer told Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* that the authorities made the announcement after concluding their investigation into Van der Sloot's alleged role in the death of Stephany Flores, the daughter of a well-known businessman. The maximum penalty for murder in Peru is 20 years, but the Prosecutor's Office said a more severe sentence is warranted because of the excessively cruel nature of the crime.

Stephany Flores was found dead in a Lima hotel room rented in the name of Joran van der Sloot. CCTV footage from the hotel showed the



Selibon's new trucks fresh off the ship

►SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, received two new International garbage trucks from the US. SELIBON was using a second-hand International Heil truck from Selikor on Curaçao which was intended for the collection of recyclable glass, but because one of SELIBON'S two regular garbage trucks had engine problems it was used for regular garbage pickup.

►The Ninth Annual Special Olympics Walkathon is set to start at 5 am, Sunday, April 3. The fundraiser for Special Olympics Bonaire follows the same 30 km. route taken by the slaves from the salt pans in the south to Rincon. Start training NOW.

The Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike Ride, this Sunday, March 13, starting at 6 am, at Jong Bonaire would be a good beginning.



KvK photo

►In a simple but significant meeting, the interim Board of the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce expressed their gratitude and appreciation to **Aubrey Sealy** for his 31+ years of dedication and contribution to the Chamber. The current chairman, Evert Piar, at left, presented Mr. Sealy (photo above) a small memento as a token of thanks and appreciation. From March 2011 on Mr Sealy can quietly enjoy his retirement without having to also worry about the Chamber of Commerce Bonaire. In November a new board for the Chamber of Commerce will be elected.

►To all cyclists and wanna-be cyclists: Check out the new monthly newsletter from **DeFreewieler and Caribbean Sports**. Website: <http://www.bonairefreewieler.com>

Lots of news and information: mechanical advice, stretches for cyclists, tours and training sessions. DeFreewieler now carries Giant, Bikkell and now **Cannondale Moto 5** mountain bikes. ⇒



►Welcome to new advertiser **Bon Bida Spa and Gym**. The luxurious and well-equipped fitness operation is run by Robert Smaal of BonFysio.

►What are YOU doing on March 18 and 19? Take part in the many activities being coordinated by **Bon Doet** and help our island. Be art of Bonaire's greatest-ever volunteer event. Details on page 11.

Just Do It! ■

G./L. D.

Where Do Baby Turtles Go?

Loggerhead and some other turtle species are born with an ability to know where they are on Earth and which way to swim to get to favorable feeding grounds. That's the conclusion from a new study by scientists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The turtles appear to accomplish this by being exquisitely sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field. Humans using a compass can also tell which way is north, "But a compass doesn't really tell you where you are," says UNC graduate student Nathan Putman. "Turtles can use the magnetic field as a sort of map. It gives them positional information," he says.

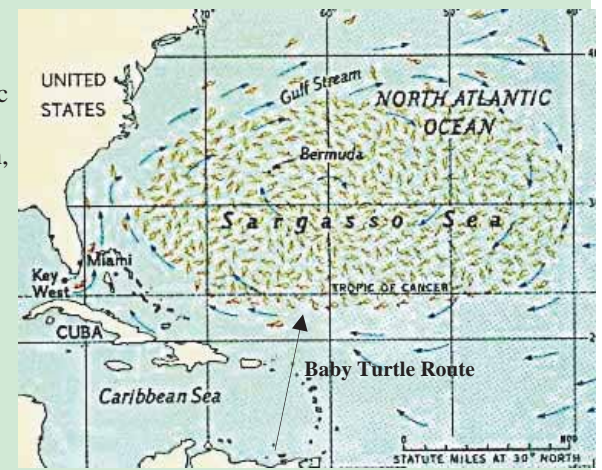
Here's how it works. There are two components of a magnetic field. One is the **intensity** or the strength of the field — the stronger the field, the closer to one of the poles. The other is **inclination**, or the angle the magnetic field lines intersect the Earth. Turtles can detect both components, and using them together, "it can get a good idea as to which side of the ocean it's on, not just whether it's in the northern or the southern part of it."

"What they're trying to do is get into the **North Atlantic Gyre**, that big circle of water that encloses the Sargasso Sea," says James Gould of Princeton University. You have to swim in different directions to get to the gyre, depending on whether you start out in Puerto Rico (swim east) or Cape Verde (swim west).

Being able to head in the right direction is a critical skill for a hatchling turtle. The North Atlantic Gyre takes them to a place filled with a kind of seaweed called sargassum where they can hide out until they're big enough to avoid predators. Missing the



UNC photos



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Little Monty's Second Chance

PART TWO

Previously in *The Reporter*: Sunny day in the Caribbean. Mr and Mrs Python have eggs, chicks, fledglings and then fly to the village to eat mangos (that's not all in the same day of course this is just a quick recap). The flight goes well. The parents look forward to eating mangoes but the kids don't care because they still get fed by their parents. Suddenly there was danger. Monty gets knocked about the head with a big stick and he fell from the wire to the ground.

Monty was captured! We can't say for sure but it will certainly enhance the story if we exploit all available artistic license and mention there was a brief scuffle during which he managed to bite his captor. Hoorah for Monty. His efforts were in vain however and he was tossed into a dusty old hessian sack. Poor Monty didn't know what was happening. He was bumped and knocked against things and taken inside the house. The captor reached inside the bag and firmly grabbed poor Monty. Without asking he took Monty's wing and stretched it open. Monty's beautiful feathers showed vibrant reds, blues and greens but then another human appeared with scissors that shined in the light. Monty didn't know what was about to happen or indeed what scissors were but he knew he didn't want to be there. He could hear his family calling outside the human's house and he struggled again for freedom but his captors were too strong. The scissors met his wing and in an instant his beautiful feathers were roughly cut. Monty would now be unable to escape. It was all a blur for poor Monty but in a moment he found himself moving places again and being put inside a cage. If his captors had their way he would spend the rest of his life, possible as many as 30 years inside this tiny space. The cage was barely big enough for him to fully open his clipped wings.



Little Monty

For the next 10 minutes several different humans came and stuck their faces up against the cage in which Monty now found himself. The smaller ones had poked him and shouted human sounds at him but then as quickly as he had been torn from his family they left and Monty was all alone. He had never been all alone before. Even as a tiny pink chick unable to hold his head up he had had his siblings there and together they supported each other. The chances are until he himself had a Mrs. Lora sitting on eggs which would have been at least four years hence he would never have actually been alone.

Loras are extremely social birds and in the wild they spend their entire lives in the company of other Loras from dawn until dusk and dusk until dawn every single day they are rarely more than a few meters from their companions. But now Monty found himself alone. It made him nervous, uncomfortable, stressed and to make things yet worse the wind blew through the open window and chilled him but in

his little cage he was unable to move out of the way. Poor Monty, like so many captured parrots, was deeply sad.

Monty's mood moved from melancholic to morose as the sun rose and beat through the window directly on to him. He panted and felt thirst like he had never felt. He didn't know that at the bottom of his cage there was water. He had never drunk water. Soon the sun moved further and later still it shone orange on the trees he could see through the window. He heard Loras calling and he shouted back in delight. They came closer and soon he could see them. It was of course his family. His hunger and thirst overcame his sad longing for his family and he begged and begged for food. They would not come to the house or to the cage it was too dangerous for them and so poor Monty remained hungry. Before the light faded his family, having little choice, left and once again Monty was all alone.

Rather than continue dragging out poor Monty's pitiful situation any longer we shall simply gloss over the attempted force feeding of human food, the loneliness and the ever increasing hunger poor Monty felt. Similarly we'll skip past the good citizen that heard Monty's increasingly incessant begging and alerted the authorities, and how they confiscated poor Monty, so that we can get to a happier part of the tale for after all this very story is "Monty's Second Chance"!

And so it was that on a sunny afternoon a hungry and confused little Lora was deposited with the Welsh speaking parrot team leader, Rhian Evans, future ambassador for Wales and as Welsh as any Welsh person (born in England) can be. In no short time Rhian and her pet Lora enthusiast, Polish colleague Gabriela Hajduk, had Monty stuffed full of nice fruit. Over the next weeks Monty recuperated as well as any young Lora torn from their family could. His siblings would be meeting lots of other young Loras and learning all

about their environment, where to sleep at night, where to find food, and so on, but Monty was not going to have that opportunity.

The Lora team played with Monty, challenged him as best they could and slowly taught him to feed for himself. As they couldn't train his flight muscles Rhian and Gabi built a huge stick pile and made him climb it. Of course the girls grew attached to Monty, particularly as he had become the most handsome of Loras but soon their role in Monty's life was complete and they took him to the Ministry for Agriculture where he was put in a large aviary and got to meet other Loras that had also been illegally captured but then confiscated.

So, dear reader, you would be forgiven for thinking this is the end of this turbulent tale and that reaching the aviary was indeed Monty's Second Chance, but no, this is not the case, goodness no! To live in a large aviary where he could be in the company of other Loras and fly five meters from end to end is certainly a great deal for a captive parrot but is no comparison to living as a free Lora in the wild. Monty's Second Chance is going to be far greater than that for he and his companions in the aviary will soon be released back into the wild so they can feed on Oliba, Shimaruku and Wayaka, and so they can fly until their wings can carry them no more. This, dear reader, will be Part Three of this poorly named Two Part Tale and you can look out for news of this great event in a future edition of *The Reporter*. ■ Story & photo by Sam Williams

Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's Loras for over 7 years and he recently founded of Echo. Find out more www.echobonaire.org



Latin Music Classics

“Ay, Ay, Ay, Ay, Canta Y No Llores”

Most of the Latin music lovers know the words of this legendary Latin Classic, *Cielito Lindo*.

Cielito Lindo is the most popular Ranchera song from Mexico, written in 1882. Commonly played by Mariachi bands, it has been recorded by many artists

ranging from Ana Gabriel to Placido Domingo.

The song is also known as the music of the famous film, “Los Tres García.” In recent decades it has come to be widely known as a theme song for Mexicans, particularly at international events, like the FIFA World Cup.



Jody's Music Quiz

This week's Question: Who sang Cielito Lindo in the film, Los Tres Garcia?

Please send your answer to: info@jodysbonaire.com and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's.

The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

Last issue's answer: “440” is the name of the band that plays with Juan Luis Guerra. **This week's winner is Armida Nessi** who can pick up the free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18.

Captive Birds Confiscated

Last week police joined with representatives of STINAPA, the Animal Shelter and the government to confiscate birds, including five Loras (Bonaire parrots), an owl, and a Warawara (Crested



Caracara), all protected by international and Bonaire law, from a kunuku in the Flor de Cuba area. But the story doesn't end there.

The next night the same man cited for caging the birds went to LVV where the birds were confined in the large aviary built to house confiscated birds, cut the wire and removed the Loras confiscated from him. He was later apprehended, sent to jail for four days on charges of trespassing, destruction and stealing confiscated items. He still has to go to court on the possession charge. ■ Press release/G.D.



Jody's Fashion & Music Jody's is the well-known Fashion-shop for men and women at Lagoen Hill.

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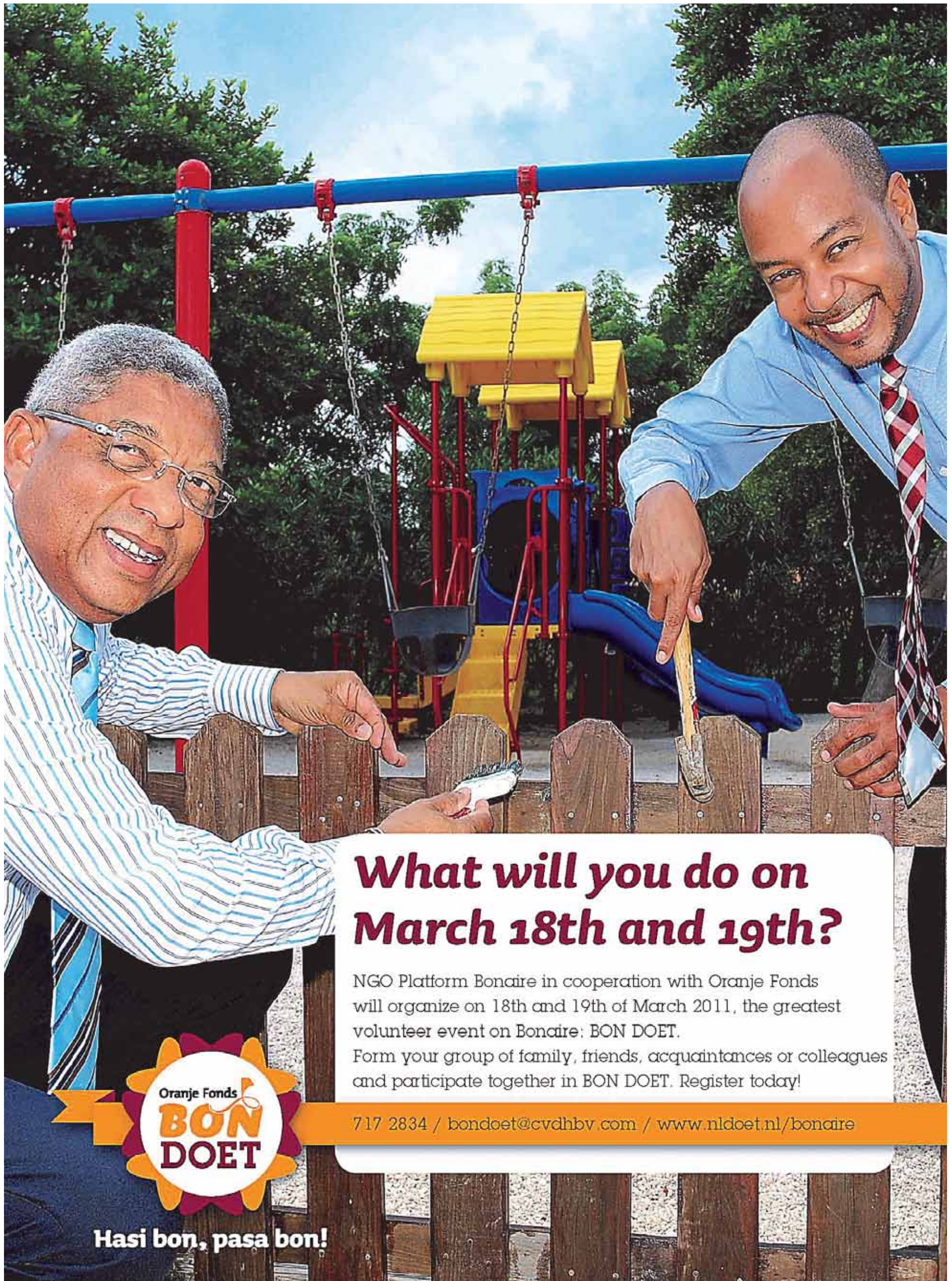
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What will you do on March 18th and 19th?

NGO Platform Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize on 18th and 19th of March 2011, the greatest volunteer event on Bonaire: BON DOET.

Form your group of family, friends, acquaintances or colleagues and participate together in BON DOET. Register today!

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Hasi bon, pasa bon!



The 87th 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+

Jeroen Langenkamp and His Strange Bird



Bonaire/Lagoen –
So that morning I just followed the direction in which the front wheels of the truck led me. No goal, brains on saving energy. Fresh air from the African continent blowing through the cabin of the truck and through my mind. A curling road rolled itself out in the direction of the Animal Shelter, kunukus on the left and on the right, the land fill. Finally the Boka Lagoen. Splashes of sea water left little white spots on my shirt and shorts. Apparently no people, no animals, no creatures. Just the soil and the sea and me. This is the Bonaire that makes me cry with emotion. I added some salty drops to the island. I walked over the pier, I walked along the shore. Bare feet. Kicking coconuts and drift seeds. Two pelicans hunting for fish. Then I turned the key of the ignition and started the engine of my tuff truck.

On the way back, somewhere along the road to Lagoen, out of the corner of my left eye I saw the contours of an old French van. The Dutch nicknamed this vehicle, "Ugly Duck." I recognized the car. This car did not really fit into its surroundings yet. This is the panel van I knew for ages. It had its domicile in Belnem, a barrio in the south of the island of Bonaire.

So again I stopped the truck and got out. I walked to the entrance of a huge terrain. A Citroën Acadiane was parked along with two anonymous Fords. As far as I know the island gives shelter to only three more or less similar Citroëns: a yellow Mehari in Sabadeco, a blue Dyane in Nikiboko North and a grey 2CV "ugly duck" in Belnem. I honked the car several times and I yelled: "Bon dia!" Finally a sturdy young man showed up. He appeared to be the new owner of the beige Citroën Acadiane. His name was Jeroen Langenkamp and indeed, this was the Citroën that had spent most of its life in the Belnem area!

Jeroen Langenkamp, in his early 30s, from the eastern part of The Netherlands (Dwingelo), is a professional diver. He is the owner of a diving school in Holland and as it is winter in the old world this means low season for diving. So Jeroen made the

decision to take a break and spend some months on Bonaire. His intention is to dive a lot, to work on his physical and mental condition and to explore the possibilities of organizing dive tours for different disabled persons (Read the Wheels-article # 58 in *The Bonaire Reporter* on the internet or surf to "Wheel me on", Julia Hollenbeck, Bonaire...). Jeroen, six weeks on the island of Bonaire is now "in retreat," as he himself says.

So Jeroen was looking for a peaceful area on this globe and he found what he was looking for on Bonaire. And he found the unique car. The Citroën is perfect for exploring the island, looking for interesting locations and dive spots.

As far as I know and as far as Jeroen believes the beige colored Citroën Acadiane is a reliable car. I never saw the car parked along the road because of technical problems. With a Citroën like this it is very difficult to have problems because the vehicle carries the weight of only 680 kilograms of parts. A very basic car, designed for French farmers. The car had to be able to carry a basket with unboiled fresh eggs over unpaved roads. These Citroëns are powered by an air-cooled, two-cylinder engine. In the philosophy of André Citroën, two cylinders were sufficient. Forced air cooling means no radiator, no liquid, no hoses are needed. A four-speed gearbox connects the power plant to the two front wheels. No drive shaft needed. The 15-inch wheels are mounted to the vehicle with only three nuts. The dash board is very primitive and small. Back to basics. The no nonsense idea. The first Citroëns had fold up/fold down side windows, only one wiper and only one headlamp. The metal Citroën used was thin and a lot of parts were simply connected to the frame with bolts and nuts.

The Citroën Acadiane was produced between 1978 and 1987. Jeroen believes his French lady left the factory in 1979. Over a quarter of a million Acadianes were produced. Now the Acadiane is becoming more and more a collector's item.

The Acadianes are fitted with a two-cylinder boxer engine, measuring 602 cc.

That is less than the smallest Harley-Davidson. Compression ratio is 8.5:1. The tiny power plant produces 31 horse power at 5750 revs per minute. Top speed, driving the car in a northwestern direction, can be 100 kilometers per hour. The top speed with a new Citroën Acadia could only be reached leaving the right foot planted on the floor, changing up when there were no more revs to press out of the boxer engine and never, ever brake for bends or curves.

Jeroen really likes his new car. He bought it in running condition and its condition is getting better every day. In the rear there is sufficient space for two lovers to spend the night after a fatiguing dive. The dive gear then has to remain outside. There are handy cupboards installed. There is even an electric water supply for washing hands or having a basic shower.

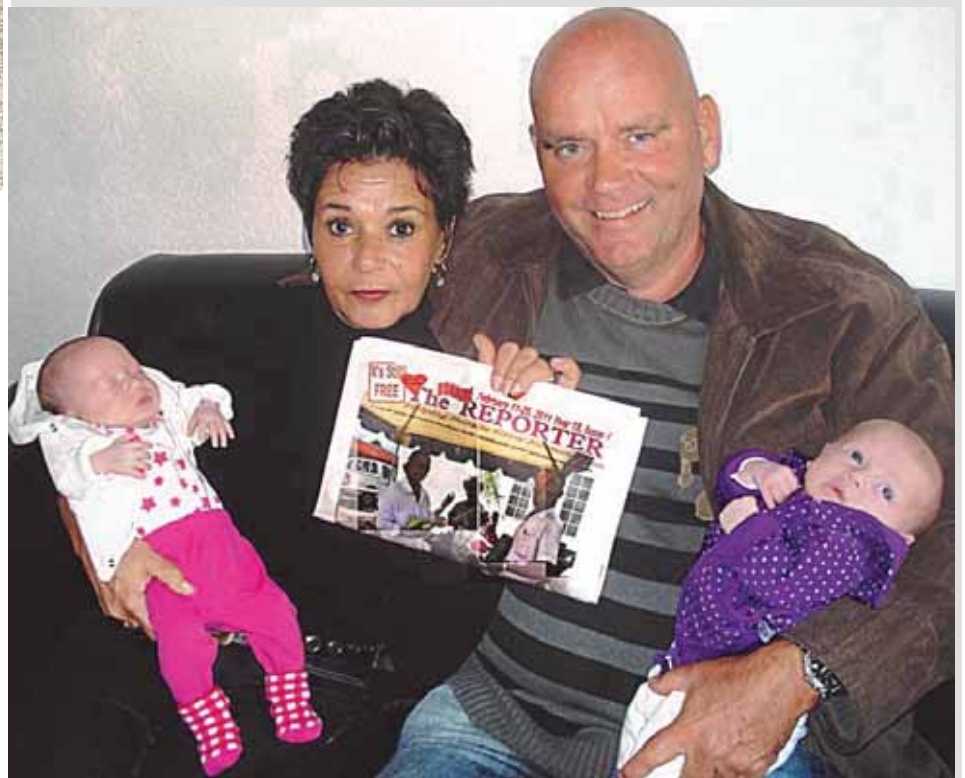
Today, tools are spread all around the vehicle as Jeroen is busy with normal maintenance and improvements. This morning he finely adjusted the complex elbow structure commanding the four-speed gearbox, using washers, iron wire, nails and paperclips.

His Citroën Acadiane feels comfortable under the skills of this mechanic as originally the French farmers only had horseshoe nails available for emergency repairs...

Story & photos by J@n Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Sittard, Holland



Did you wonder why the column "Latin Music Classics" was missing from the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*? It's because its author, Jo Bux, was in The Netherlands. Doing what you ask?

Well, Jo, (of Jody's fashion) and his wife, Dymphie, were in Sittard, Holland, to celebrate the birth of their two grandchildren: twins Jalou and Félix. They promised to read Opa's Reporter column next week. ■

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For sale: Full automatic washing machine AEG L66840, 1600 rpm, all washing programs, contents 6 kilograms. Machine is bought: July 2nd 2010. Still guarantee left. **Almost brand new** and in perfect condition. Asking price \$1100. **For more information call: 717-7851**.

For Sale : Washing Machine IGNIS 1000T , 230 V for light and medium loads, little used, good condition :\$220 **Call : 717-5038**

WANTED: PADI Divemaster/ Handyman Must be able to drive boats, guide dives, speak English. 5 day work week including weekends and holidays. Job includes filling and handling dive tanks and general resort maintenance work. **Call Carib Inn at 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

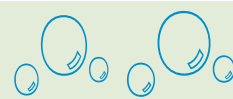
For sale: 2 hardly used Panther PRO-XR111 mountain bikes with 21 Shimano Revoshift gears and tires with a special inside protection. \$350 each, two for \$650. **Tel. 796-5591**.

Young cleaning lady is looking for a job for three days and a half a week. Good references and plenty of experience. Speaking English, Dutch and Papiamentu. **Call: 796 – 3415**.

Looking to buy a mid-size car.
Please email: alexisaura@gmail.com



10 ft Apex Rigid Hull fiberglass. Tohatsu 15 Hp 4-stroke outboard. Excellent condition with low hours on motor, \$4000 OBO **Phone 780-9156 or 717-5246**



Bubbles From the Biologist

Did You Know... that parrotfish never blink?

Notice that every time you see a parrotfish its eyes are always wide open? When parrotfish go to sleep at night, they sleep with both their eyes open. Even when parrotfish get some water or plankton in their eye, they still don't blink because they don't have the ability to blink.

It is thought that parrotfish keep their eyes open at all times as a defense mechanism. Another fun fact is that parrotfish have colors in and around their eyes similar to their body colors that help the eye blend in and this is also thought to help them avoid being detected and eaten by predators. ■
Tom Stabler



Photo provided by Tom Stabler- source unknown

Tom Stabler is in his third year at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. He is concentrating in general biology. He studied at the CIEE Research Station in Bonaire last semester.



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 11	05:44 0.77 ft	14:15 - 0.15 ft	19:03 0.14 ft	23:35 0.04 ft		6:45	18:46
Sat 12	06:21 0.83 ft	14:50 - 0.16 ft	19:30 0.13 ft	First Quarter		6:45	18:46
Sun 13		00:15 0.00 ft	07:00 0.86 ft	15:24 - 0.17 ft	20:01 0.15 ft	6:44	18:46
Mon 14		01:02 - 0.02 ft	07:42 0.87 ft	15:57 - 0.16 ft	20:37 0.18 ft	6:43	18:46
Tue 15		01:55 - 0.03 ft	08:25 0.84 ft	16:31 - 0.15 ft	21:21 0.24 ft	6:43	18:46
Wed 16		02:57 - 0.02 ft	09:12 0.78 ft	17:06 - 0.14 ft	22:12 0.33 ft	6:42	18:46
Thu 17		04:10 - 0.00 ft	10:05 0.68 ft	17:42 - 0.12 ft	23:07 0.43 ft	6:41	18:46
Fri 18		05:35 0.01 ft	11:06 0.55 ft	18:21 - 0.09 ft		6:41	18:46
Sat 19	00:06 0.55 ft	07:09 - 0.01 ft	12:18 0.43 ft	19:04 - 0.07 ft	Full Moon	6:40	18:46
Sun 20	01:06 0.67 ft	08:43 - 0.08 ft	13:41 0.33 ft	19:51 - 0.04 ft		6:40	18:46
Mon 21	02:05 0.78 ft	10:05 - 0.17 ft	15:05 0.27 ft	20:44 - 0.02 ft		6:39	18:46
Tue 22	03:03 0.87 ft	11:14 - 0.26 ft	16:22 0.25 ft	21:40 - 0.01 ft		6:38	18:46
Wed 23	03:59 0.94 ft	12:13 - 0.33 ft	17:28 0.25 ft	22:37 0.00 ft		6:38	18:46
Thu 24	04:53 0.97 ft	13:07 - 0.36 ft	18:24 0.26 ft	23:33 0.00 ft		6:37	18:46
Fri 25	05:45 0.97 ft	13:56 - 0.36 ft	19:15 0.27 ft			6:36	18:46

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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.

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

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.

BAKERY & CAFÉ

Exito offers fresh homemade breads and pastries, fruit shakes including fresh orange juice maker on the island, freshly made sandwiches, an expanded salad bar and other take-out items—at affordable prices.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

CARS AND BIKES

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

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, krioyo and Venezuelan food. Breakfast & Lunch only.

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. Very cool jazz music! 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 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.

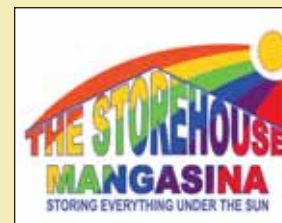
RETAIL

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

SECURITY

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

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.

SHIPPING



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

SPAs/GYM



Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility - Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day or annual rates.

SUPERMARKETS



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

(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.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

Join this list of Bonaire's best businesses. Advertise in *The Bonaire Reporter*, in print and on the Internet

Fortnightly Advertisers in *The Bonaire Reporter* are included in the guide. Free!

To place and ad call 790-6518, 786-6518 or email laura@bonairenews.com

Is There A Red-White-Blue Coalition On The Way?

Politics



I guess that most of you know that the Dutch flag is red, white and blue, the *rood-wit-blauw* banner. Well, the results of the election of 2nd March 2011 are actually quite “promising” for some people. The biggest party, the green UPB, achieved four seats, the red one, which is Democrat, three, the blue one

which is *Movementu Boneiru Liber*, one and the white *Partido Pro Hustisia i Union* achieved also one seat. The negotiations have already started.

The green party does not have a majority on the Island Council to form a government by itself. So they are quite willing and maybe even desperate to sit at the table with any other party which has achieved a seat. They want to negotiate about the forming of a possible coalition in order to stay on that warm, comfortable chair.

During the political debate between the five leaders of the parties at the City Café a couple of days ago, one could see very clearly that the thoughts of the parties red, white and blue, have a lot in common. The attacks in the direction of the green party were very strong and its leader was unfortunately not strong enough in this battle. The “bullets” kept on coming in his direction and the poor fellow wasn’t even able to run away. The total votes for the parties red, white, blue, including the votes for the party of Eric Soleano, show very clearly that the majority of Bonaire wants the green party to take a hike and let a new, fresh government rule this place this coming four years. In a few days we will see if a logical coalition will be formed. ■

Opinion by *Norwin Leito*



First 2011 Prenatal Graduates

One of the most valued seminars for expectant mothers and fathers is given several times a year... Free. To find out more pass by SEBIKI on Kaya Pedro P. Silië or call 717-2436. ■ *Press release*



Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to **Georgina “Gina” Sanchez**, who will become a teenager of 13 years on March 20. Gina assists her grandmother, Elizabeth Silber, in delivering *The Bonaire Reporter* to sites all around the island.

Talented Gina is a painter and speaks English, Papiamentu, Spanish and Dutch fluently. She often uses her translation talents to help the staff of *The Reporter*.

Happy Birthday, Gina, and many, many more.



A big happy birthday to **Yuchi Molina** who celebrates her birthday on March 7. Yuchi is responsible for delivering *The Bonaire Reporter* to businesses in Rincon. Thank you so much, Yuchi, for all the years you have helped *The Reporter*.

Yuchi is well known in her native village of Rincon. She works in Playa at Inpo where she is a valued employee. We wish you the happiest of birthdays! *Pabien, Yuchi!*

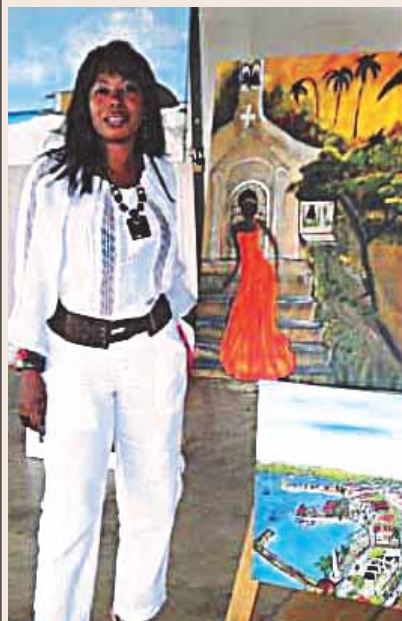
ART EXHIBITS

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

Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) March 20 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



Luz Aida Franco Wesselius Artist on the Art Trail

The Richter Art Gallery, located in Belnem, is features original paintings, limited edition archival art prints, and hand made jewelry created by long-time residents Linda, Jake, and Krystyana Richter- Phone 717 4112

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

Ronald Verhoeven Paintings Bonaire. Tel 717-2886, 788-4263, email: ronaldverhoeven@msn.com

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

JanArt Gallery, Kaya Grandi 14, 717-5246

Atelier José, Kaya Aleksandrit 6, Republiek. Local art, mosaics, driftwood and more. Open: Saturdays 10-3p.m, or call 785-6670 for appointment



The Richter Art Gallery
Featuring art by Linda Richter and Jake Richter



Regular Open Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 2 - 5:30pm
Kaminda di Arte 3rd Sunday 11 am-5 pm

Original oil paintings
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Located in Belnem at Kaya R. Statius van Eps 17, on the Road to Sorobon
Web: www.RichterArt.com E-Mail: info@RichterArt.com Phone: 717-4112
Please note the Gallery is located on the second floor, accessible by a wide circular staircase



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the Craft Market

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

Day	Date	Ship	Arrive	Leave	PAX Cap	Line
Fri	Mar-11	Friday market	0900	1400		
Sun	Mar-13	Maasdam	0800	1700	1258	HAL
Mon	Mar-14	Emerald Prin-	1200	2000	3100	Princess
		Aida Vita	0800	1600	1260	Aida
Thu	Mar-17	Caribbean	1100	2000	3100	Princess
Fri	Mar-18	Grandeur of the Seas	0700	1600	2446	Celebrity
Wed	Mar-23	Constellation	0800	1600	2034	Celebrity
		Noordam	0800	1700	1918	HAL
Thu	Mar-24	Queen Victoria	1230	1800	1980	Cunard
Fri	Mar-25	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016	Princess
Sun-Tues	Thru Spring	Freewinds	0630	2200	150	Scintology

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, March 12 - Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company at their warehouse on Kaya Industria, 7-9 pm. Taste 6 wines for \$10 per person, snacks too.

Sunday, March 13- Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike Ride, 6am, at Jong Bonaire

March 18 & 19—BON DOET Day-BON DOET is the Bonairean version of the Oranje Fonds' NL DOET. Get out and volunteer to work next weekend with one or more of the NGOs, church groups or organizations to make Bonaire a better place

Sunday, March 20 - Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) . Visit artists' homes and studios. 11 am to 5 pm. Every third Sunday of the month until June. More on page 15.

Saturday, March 26 -Farmer's Market, home grown fruits, vegetables, local products, 8 am-2pm. Location listed in next Reporter.

Sunday, March 27 - 33rd Annual Contest di Fli (Kite Contest). In the field behind Kooymans. From 9 am. Sign up at the Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi.

Saturday, April 3—9th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. Start training now! More information in upcoming issues.

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open every day into the cooler evening hours.

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—8am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marshé 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 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 Koes 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.

Tuesdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 6 pm, multi course dinner, \$20. Reservations 700-4628.

Wednesdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 12:30 multi course lunch, about \$12. Reservations 700-4628

Thursdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 12:30 multi course lunch, about \$12. Reservations 700-4628

- **Bonaire Chess & Draughts (checkers) players get together** on from 19.00 till 21.00 at the SGB-school: Kaya Frater Odulfinuz z/n.

Fridays

- **Jong Bonaire Chess & Draughts** players get together from 17.00 till 19.00 at the SGB-school. Kids can start at age six. Tourists are welcome. Contact Serapio Pop, at 701-9660

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: 790-7001 and 796-4931

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, Herman van Leeuwen photo Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

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

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Por's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

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

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

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 p.m. Preaching in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about subscriptions, stories or advertising in **The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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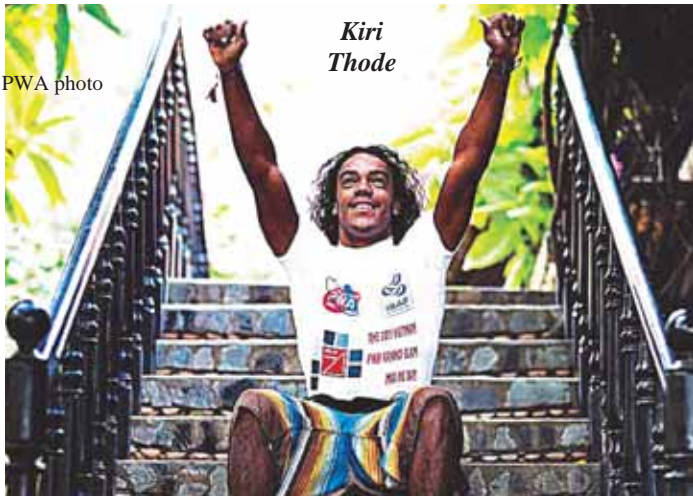
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Bonaireans Win In Viet Nam

The best windsurfers in the world kicked off the 2011 Professional Windsurfing Association World Tour in Mui Ne, in South Eastern Vietnam, February 25th to March 5th. Bonaire riders Kiri Thode and the Frans brothers, Tati and Tonky, dominated the event not only on the water but in the media.

PWA photo



Kiri Thode

The Mui Ne event boasts a €100,000 prize purse to be split between the Freestyle and Slalom. Mui Ne is on the South China Sea. The area has grown up around the fishing industry, but more recently has become a tourist hot spot thanks to the beaches, bars, restaurants, and reliable sea breezes that blow for more than 230 days of the year. Typically the water is fairly flat with wind-blown chop, and other than some shore break there are rarely waves.

Kiri Thode beat Jose Estredo in the finals to continue his unbeaten streak and won the first ever Vietnam PWA Grand Slam. Taty and Tonky Frans were next.

As the competition ran its course it was exciting to witness Estredo being

categorically outclassed by Thode. That's not to say Estredo performed badly, in fact far from it, but Thode was picture perfect. Everything from his air bobs through to his improvised one handed culo-pirouette, the execution was sublime. When the judges announced their verdict, a humbled Estredo graciously accepted second place overall for the event, handing Thode the unanimous event victory and early lead in the 2011 PWA Freestyle Rankings.

The 2011 Vietnam PWA Grand Slam Freestyle Results

- 1st Kiri Thode
- 2nd Jose Estredo
- 3rd Taty Frans
- 4th Tonky Frans ■

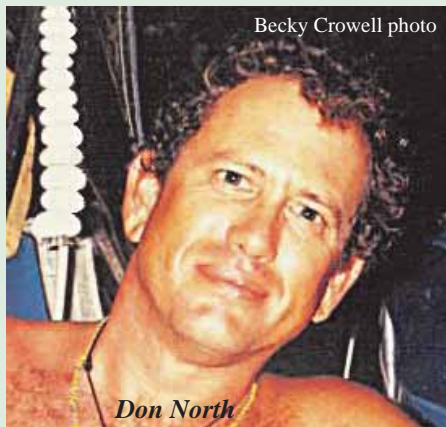
PWA release/G.D.

Yachtsman Murdered

In mid January 2011, American citizen Don North went missing along with this sailboat the *Windancer* in the area of Chichime in the San Blas islands off the Caribbean coast of Panama. Don lived aboard his boat, *Windancer*, in Kralendijk Bay during the days in the 90s that *Mangazina di Rei* was being restored. He was the horticulturist who built the greenhouse and did hydroponic gardening.

A Spaniard named Javier Martin had apparently killed Don North, stolen his boat and all of his possessions, and hastily renamed the boat *Green Twilight*. Javier Martin was arrested on Monday, 14 February 2011. Rafael Baloyes, the prosecutor who is primarily responsible for advancing the investigations, said DNA analysis confirmed the presence of Don's blood on the *Windancer*. He further specified that blood spatter patterns indicate Don was most likely shot in the head with a firearm because they found blood on the roof of the cabin area of the vessel with Luminol. Apparently then someone removed Don's body from the cabin of the sailboat up the stairs, because they found drops of blood in that area of the boat.

Right now it is presumed Javier Martin killed Don North aboard the *Windancer* sometime after 17 January 2011. It is also presumed that Javier Martin disposed of Don North's body by throwing it into the ocean. Thus far his body has not been recovered. Now with this blood evidence and



Becky Crowell photo

Don North

the DNA match, the prosecutors have a much stronger case, and they pressed formal charges of homicide against Javier Martin for the murders of both Don North and the Frenchman Jean Pierre Bouhard, whom he killed on the morning of Monday, 31 January 2011.

Javier Martin will be facing many other criminal charges besides murder for the deaths of Don North and Jean Pierre Bouhard. For example, he not only killed the owners, but he stole both of their sailboats, as well as all of their possessions. He was arrested with three illegal firearms and there was a fourth in the tent in Chichime. He used credit cards and ATM cards to make purchases and to clean out the bank accounts of his victims. Authorities are even considering pressing charges against him for identity theft because he registered at the hostel in the Darien under Don North's name. When it's all said and done, the prosecutor told me he expects Javier Marin will be sentenced to "at least 70 years in prison, maybe more - he will never leave prison again." ■ © 2011 by Don Winner for Panama-Guide.com.

Body Talk

WHY YOUR MEDICATION CANNOT "CURE"

What is your definition of "being healthy"? Does it mean no aches and pains, no medications, loads of energy and vitality or a good memory, or all of these things? Each one of us has our own definition of health, often based on exactly what is wrong with us at the moment. If your memory is "bad" you are not going to wish for more vitality!

Regardless of your health complaint, if you are taking medications, educate yourself on exactly how these medications are affecting your HEALTH, not your HEALTH PROBLEM! Take hormone replacement therapy for example. If menopause has been surgically induced (usually at an early age) then yes, you definitely need hormone replacement therapy. But, ALL the hormones should be replaced, - not just estrogen. Contrary to pharmaceutical industry propaganda, estrogen is a damaging hormone. It is essential in a woman of childbearing age for a very short period of time in every cycle to stimulate proliferation of the uterine wall in preparation for implantation!

Consider what typically happens to some extent in almost all women these days. In association with inadequate exercise, and an unhealthy diet, a girl experiences adolescence accompanied by mood swings, painful menstruation, and all those PMT's and PMS's! (Have you noticed how today the medical world uses all these abbreviations - never heard of them 30 years ago!).

The problem is her hormone levels are out of balance from the start. Estrogen is very high relative to her progesterone and most women maintain this unbalanced ration of estrogen and progesterone from adolescence through menopause and beyond.

Associated with this excess estrogen to progesterone ratio are symptoms such as anxiety, mood swings, food cravings, fluid retention, and all the physical and emotional symptoms associated with this imbalance. Typically, a prescription for hormone replacement contains several times as much estrogen as a woman made when she was in her 20s. Why is such a huge dosage prescribed? Because it will immediately relieve the distressing hot flashes and other symptoms associated with a drop in estrogen.

If menopausal symptoms are more than you can handle, consider hormone replacement therapy with the important hormone precursors pregnenolone and DHEA, which are the precursors to progesterone and estrogen and testosterone. (DHEA actually states on the label "May help promote sugar metabolism", HOW? However, when (and if!) you (can) read the very fine print, will tell you when not to use this, but no explanation as to what the product actually is).

Whether a woman does or does not choose to use pregnenolone and DHEA to maintain the normal hormone balance, she should at least consider the causative factors behind the hormone imbalance she is experiencing. Diet and exercise is critical. Eliminate ALL vegetable oils (salad dressings, margarine, mayonnaise, nut butters and fried foods), as well as sugars and refined carbohydrates. Supplement with trace minerals is also essential. Menopause is not a disease - it is a normal stage of life! ■

Stephanie Bennett

Next issue - High blood pressure medications



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*

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

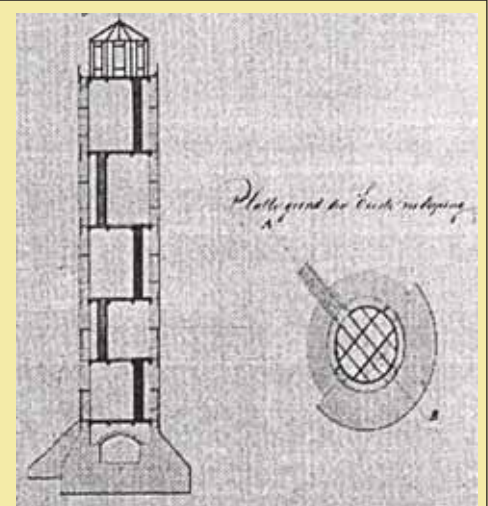
Bon Quiz (from page 7)

BonQuiz Answer

Q) What was the extraordinary event?

A) Naval Captain Cornelis Schrijver arrived in Curaçao, June 10th 1737, announcing revisions in the defense system of Curaçao and Bonaire by proposing to better the navigation security in Bonaire by building a lighthouse on the south east, 'Zuid Oost Hoek,' corner of Bonaire. His idea to place a lighthouse in the exact same spot was denied. Said to have been "unnecessary and a waste of time and money."

And yet 100 hundred years later Willems toren was built. It stands as one of the lighthouses on Bonaire with a great story behind it.



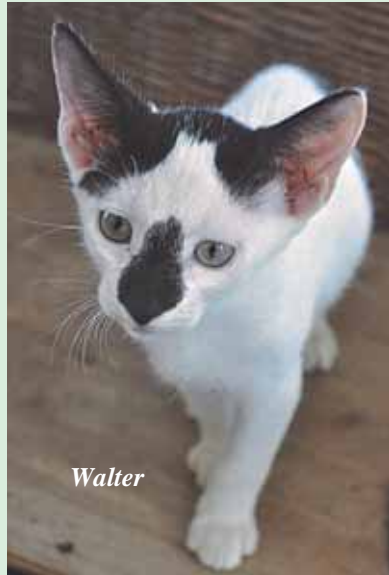
Q) Who is this lighthouse named after?

A) King Willem the First of Holland (Willem's Tower)

Pet of the Week

This week's column is written by Queen of Cats, Jane Disko Madden, who seems to know what goes on in those furry little heads.

“How can you not smile when you look at Walter? He looks like he got into his mother's makeup box and decided to paint himself a nice, big, black nose! Walter and his sister Wilhelmina arrived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter as orphans at only two weeks old. A shelter staffer took them home and fed them by hand every three hours until they were old enough to eat on their own...a month-long job that was lovingly performed! As a result Walter is a strong, active and handsome kitten with beautiful grey/green eyes who welcomes and appreciates human companionship. He is now 12 weeks old and looking to bring a constant smile and lots of affection to the lucky person who takes him into their home. Better yet, Walter and his sister Wilhelmina would be a delightful pair of loving kittens sure to brighten anyone's day.”



Walter

You may see Walter and Wilhelmina and all the other healthy and social adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 - 1, 3 - 5. Tel. 717-4989. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com.

Help the Shelter Cats Keep Their Privy Pretty

There appears to be a cat litter shortage on the island and the feline shelter residents need your help. Our cats are very fastidious in their "bathroom habits" and really need clean litter boxes every day. If you happen to be in a store and you see cat litter, please buy a bag (or two!) and drop it off at the Shelter...or at least call the Shelter and let them know where you found it so they can buy it and keep the kitty privies pretty! Website: www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■ Jane Madden/Laura DeSalvo

Farmers' Market

Another successful Farmers' Market was held Saturday, February 26. This was the third market which brought out even more people exhibiting and selling their locally grown produce, plants, salt products, honey, cheese, beverages. Spearheaded by Go Green's Tina Woodley, Papa Lucia and others the market is just what's been needed on the island: fresh, unadulterated produce, grown right here, not imported.

For more information or to sell your produce call Tina at 700-5488, Papa at 786-7776 or Nerry at 796-6777.

Everyone is welcome at the next Farmers' Market on **Saturday, March 26, from 8 am to 2 pm.** Location will be listed in the next Reporter under "Happenings." ■ L.D.



Here's Sjoerd Kalkman who was on the cover of The Reporter on February 11 with the Farmers' Market photos but was not identified. Sjoerd makes beautiful and unusual greeting and holiday cards and sells them at the Market.

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Enjoying the Farmers' Market last month are some happy mamas, adopted grandmothers and children. The Market is fun for all ages.



Here's Rocky Emers, LVV head, with two darling little girls who told Rocky that they want to be kunukeros (farmers) when they grow up.

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The Biggest Full Moon in 18 Years! Plus Jupiter and Mercury Have a Super Scoochy

There is a lot happening in the heavens these days: pinkish **Mercury** pays a close visit to giant **Jupiter** on Monday and Tuesday March 14 and 15th plus we'll have the closest and biggest **full Moon** in 18 years on Saturday March 19th. And finally the **Vernal Equinox**, the beginning of spring, will occur at 7:21 pm Eastern Time on **Sunday March 20th**.

Next week on Monday March 14 about 45 minutes after sunset look low in the west and you should see two bright star-like lights low not far above the horizon. The pink planet Mercury will be about 2 1/2 degrees down and to the right of much brighter Jupiter. The next night Tuesday the 15th, same time, same direction, Mercury will be even closer to Jupiter and a bit higher. Mercury will continue to climb higher each night for the next two weeks while Jupiter will drop lower each night and will soon be gone from evening skies. Now remember that even though Mercury and Jupiter appear to be very close together in the sky, they are really hundreds of millions of miles apart. Mercury will be much, much closer to you, a bit over 100 million miles away while Jupiter will be almost 5 1/2 times farther away, 548 million miles away. Another way to think of it is that next Tuesday the 15th the sunlight reflecting from Mercury will take 9 minutes to cross the solar system so you can see it, while the sunlight bouncing off Jupiter will take 49 minutes to get here.

Now next Saturday the 19th you'll be treated to the closest and biggest full Moon of 2011. It's not only the closest full Moon for this year but it will be the closest and biggest full Moon since March 8, 1993! Plus it will be the biggest full Moon you'll see for the next five years, until November 14, 2016. What exactly is meant by that term "**Full Moon**?" Most of the time people say that a full Moon is a big, round, fully illuminated Moon and the Moon looks like this for several days each month. Well we're a bit more finicky with the definition of the word "Full Moon." In astronomy "Full Moon" means that the Moon's apparent



geocentric ecliptic longitude is 180 degrees more than the **Sun's** apparent **geocentric ecliptic longitude**. Whew! Quite a mouthful, huh? Well, simply put this means the Moon is on the other side of the sky from the Sun as seen from **Earth**. This definition allows us to determine the exact time for Full Moon. One minute before and it's not quite full and one minute after and it's all over until next month. But why is the Moon a different size at different full Moons?

Well the Moon's path in its orbit around the Earth is not quite a circle. The Moon averages about 240,000 miles from Earth but can get as close as 221,441 miles and as far as 252,723 miles. That's a range of over 30,000 miles. So a full Moon can be very close, such as the one next week or it can be 30,000 miles farther away like the farthest and smallest full Moon for this year which will be on October 11. Nothing about the Moon's orbit repeats exactly so the distance of the full Moon shrinks and expands over a period of roughly 14 months and they are not all the same. The last time we had a full Moon closer than this one was in March of 1993 and the next time will be in November 2016. So be sure to see this extremely close full Moon and don't miss Jupiter and Mercury at their closest. ■

Dean Rigas



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
March 2011 Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Empty promises will cause confusion. You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Don't invest too much of your own money. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You can accomplish a lot if you deal with other people's money or possessions this month. Visitors may relieve the tension. You should not get involved in joint ventures. Don't make those you live with feel unloved or unworthy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your nerves are frazzled. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. You are best to deal with those outside your family. Problems with appliances or electrical gadgets will drive you crazy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Think twice before you speak. Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. You need to be careful not to make promises that you can't fulfill. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Seminars will provide you with knowledge and amusement. Your personal partner may be less than willing to accommodate you this month. You can ask for favors but don't take them for granted. You can make changes to your home that will be pleasing to all concerned.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself. Your creative imagination will help you in coming up with unique ideas. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. Assist a relative or good friend by setting of a budget for them. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely. You need action. Be careful of the groups you join

or the people you associate with. A new image can be the result if you change your look. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't reveal any personal details. Rewards for past good deeds will be yours. Your love will not be willing to listen to your criticism. Do not sign your life away. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your interest in helping others may take you back to school. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this month. Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. Don't sign up for too many extra activities or you'll have trouble fulfilling your obligations. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over. Responsibilities with respect to older relatives may be a burden. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your goals will be in reach if you direct your energy wisely. You need to distance yourself from the situation for a little while first. You should get into programs that will enhance your appearance and help you to be the best that you can. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. You will do well with clients this month. Don't sign up for too many extra activities or you'll have trouble fulfilling your obligations. Be innovative. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■

Michael Thiessen

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