

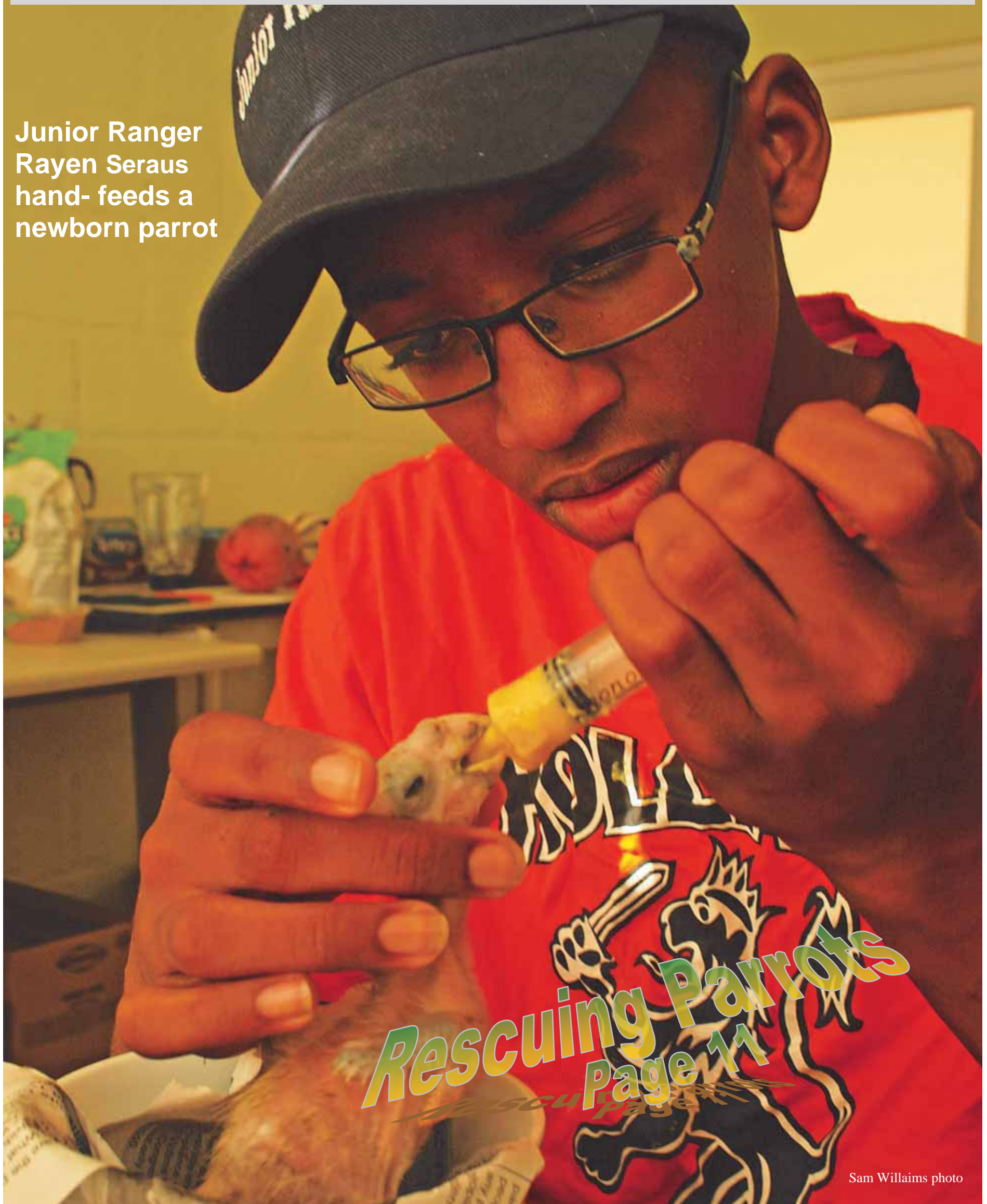
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BONAIRE July 22- August 5, 2011, Year 18, Issue 14
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Junior Ranger
Rayen Seraus
hand- feeds a
newborn parrot



Rescuing Parrots
Page 11

Sam Willaims photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

THE REPORTER

As a result of his visit to the Caribbean Netherlands, on July 14th Dutch State Secretary of Finance, Frans Weekers, sent a document to the Executive Councils of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba with his proposals for **short term changes in the BES tax structure**. This is a result of his visit to the Caribbean Netherlands. At press time no specific tax relief details were available

► **On Friday August 12, Bonaire will be welcoming the Wounded Warriors for the sixth consecutive year.** As part of the program, the Bonaire Restaurant Association and the **Tourism Corporation Bonaire will be sponsoring a Taste of Bonaire in Wilhelmina Park on that same Friday.** If you plan to be on island during that week plan on stopping by to greet the soldiers and try some of the best food on Bonaire!

► **The Water and Electricity company of Bonaire (WEB) guaranteed the supply of sufficient power to the island after the island's sole energy producer, Ecopower, pulled the plug** on the government-owned water and electricity distribution company for lack of payment. George Soliana of the Bonaire government's holding company (BHM) that manages the WEB shares called Ecopower's action irresponsible and said an arrangement had been made with Curaçao's fuel distributor, Curoil, to provide fuel to run the generators. Legal action has been threatened against Ecopower. Ecopower claims WEB owes several million dollars in back payments because it has failed to pay the entire monthly invoice for more than six months.

► From the 5th to the 8th of July **Bonaire hosted the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative of the Wetlands Treaty**, better known as the Ramsar Convention Treaty. The meeting was opened on Tuesday morning the July 5, at 9 am by Commissioner Delno Tromp. Over three days, representatives of 16 countries of the Caribbean region discussed the protection of internationally important wetlands and the various activities in the Caribbean. This is especially important for Bonaire, since Bonaire has five internationally recognized wetlands, also called Ramsar sites – **Lac Bay, Pekelmeer with the Flamingo Sanctuary, Goto, Slagbaai and Klein Bonaire.** Bonaire has more Ramsar areas than big islands such as Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. There are 1,947 Ramsar sites worldwide



Delno Tromp

► **The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) reported that KLM will fly to the island every day during the winter months. ArkeFly also has two flights.** This means there will be **nine flights per week from Bonaire to Europe.** It's rumored that Dutch air crews will have their layovers in Bonaire. The number of fly-in tourists increased from 17,000 to 34,000 per year during the past 10 years and, with the added airplane seats, TCB ultimately aims for 45,000.

Bonaire is at a disadvantage compared to Curaçao and Aruba because the **tickets to Bonaire cost €100 to €250 more** from The Netherlands. KLM has already agreed to look into that situation.

► **AMSTERDAM—Dutch flag carrier KLM appears to be poised to lose its autonomy within the Air France-KLM group** because of changes in the corporate structure. Without quoting sources, the *Telegraaf* newspaper said Monday that within the new company structure KLM would become the responsibility of a general director, who will report directly to a "top management layer, primarily made up of French nationals." The new structure is said to be forced by the integration of Italian airline Alitalia in 2013. KLM was taken over by Air France in 2004.



► **Digicel Bonaire recognized the top VWO (University prep) graduate of the SGB High School, Derek Aranguren,** with a BlackBerry phone. Derek is a down-to-earth student who scored exceptionally high in his final exams, is a rock musician and winner of *The Reporter's* English-language poetry award. He plans to study architecture and engineering at McGill University in Ontario, Canada.

► In early June **Botica Bonaire NV on Kaya Grandi was sold to Fundashon Mariadal,** which runs Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital. The transfer takes effect this August 1. The pharmacy will remain at the same location.



► **The first Bonaire Big Splash event** on the waterfront near City Café on July 9th created by Hennyson Thielman, Christen Cranston, Yolanda Bonner and hosted by Telbo, was a huge success with the people.

The in-the water event consisted of a 100 ft. (30+ meter) floating obstacle course that had to be completed by five-person teams that were being drenched by spraying water from fire department hoses. The children competed in the morning, the adults in the afternoon.

There were not only the fun races but also music and entertainment provided by DJ Toad and DJ Robert2 plus the Rhythm band from Curaçao. There were prizes for the fastest and most popular teams.

► **Over the last 10 years all kind of goods were donated for "Dia Di Gracia."** Bonaireans celebrate Thanksgiving by giving everything away, FREE on Thanksgiving Sunday. Like always, this will be on the 3rd Sunday in November. This year it will be on November 20. Their container is ready to receive anything that is still usable and all of this will be on display on *Dia Di Gracia* so people can come and choose what they need. Please contact Meredith Nicolaas, tel. 786-2024, or Shela Winklaar tel.510-7412 or Marmita Fox 796-1919. Volunteers are needed too.

► The "Pro Hustisia i Union" (PHU) party announced that Curaçao office of Soliana, Bonapart and Aardenburg has agreed to **assist in the efforts to achieve the same old age pension benefits for BES Island workers** as

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European Dutch workers. The petition asks that the current local AOV be raised to the same level as the Dutch AOV effective January 1, 2011.

The pension hike requested is about double the current payment as the AOV in The Netherlands is about twice as high as the AOV on the islands.

"We don't expect the Dutch Government to honor the request," wrote PHU Interim President Rafael Santana and Interim Secretary Michiel Bijkerk. "RCN civil servants still even get irritated when the subject of equalizing basic social rights such as AOV and Child Allowance is mentioned. But what we are asking is something very natural. The PHU is a member of Bonaire's ruling coalition."

► **WILLEMSTAD--The International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially withdrew the Olympic recognition for the Netherlands Antillean Olympic Committee (NAOC) at the closing of the 123rd IOC congress in Durban, South Africa.** The decision means that athletes from the five islands, who were still part of the no-longer-existing Netherlands Antilles, can only participate in the Olympic Games in London next year under the Dutch flag.



► **On July 7, 2011, the arrest of the ship Santa Paula was lifted.** The ship left for Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, where further repairs are to be made. The *Santa Paula*, flying the Venezuelan flag, was chained on June 8 because of serious deficiencies that posed a threat to maritime safety and the environment. The ship was re-inspected and the Inspectorate of Shipping lifted the arrest.

► **HAVANA, Cuba—The number of Americans visiting their country's long-**



► **In the pre-dawn hours on Tuesday, July 5, Bonaire acting Governor Peter Silberie, Commissioners Delno Tromp and Miralva Cicilia met the triumphant Special Olympic athletes on their return from the Games in Athens, Greece.**

In addition to the 1 medal winners announced in *The Reporter* in the last edition, Cheryl Cicilia and Omar Leonicia won gold medals for bowling. Marselino Josefa collected a bronze and Marion Melaan a silver and a bronze.

time foe Cuba is steadily increasing under the Obama administration, according to Cuban government figures, with the highest number in years likely in 2011. **Many of these visits will be recreational and at the expense of other Caribbean islands.** Some 63,000 US citizens visited Cuba in 2010, up from 52,500 the previous year.

► **Essentials is a new business located in central Kralendijk.** There you can find *BioLink* run by Stephanie Bennett, offering clinical nutrition focused on biological individuality, *The Natural Way Health Store* owned by Glenda Pourier supplying gluten-free, organic and natural products for the healthy kitchen, and Ana Mercedes' *Massage Therapy* – who can provide deep tissue massage, lymphatic massage or simply de-stressing. According to owners their courtyard is becoming known as an oasis of calm in the center of town, where you can enjoy tea, coffee and healthy foods. Website is www.essentialsonaire.com

► **Bailamores is organizing a Tango weekend.** There will be two workshops at Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Saturday July 30th and Sunday July 31st from 10 am – 1 pm. It will be a real dance-weekend with a big Tango show by a group of performers at Sense on Saturday from 7pm – 11 pm. It will become a monthly event with different themes. Workshops will be given by Rafa Oliana, a professional Tango-Maestro from Curaçao and Argentina. To reserve call 785-0783/or 786-0378.

► **Remember to tell the places you visit to advertise in *The Reporter*. It's they who keep it "Still Free."** ■ G./L.D.

Bonaire Health Insurance Office To Improve

Since taking over the health insurance program from the SVB the new Health Insurance Office (ZVK) has signed contracts with almost 100 health-care providers. There are a total of approximately 21,000 persons insured on Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire. The total budget for the enforcement of the health care legislation for 2011 is \$60 million. This figure includes the implementation costs.



RCN photo

Information regarding the Health Insurance Office is available on www.rijksdienstcn.com under the heading health care. Within short time a new door-to-door information booklet about health insurance will be circulated.

In a press release the Head of the ZVK, Jan Pieter van Zandwijk, says. "The Health Insurance Office is aware that the implementation of the health care legislation is still not optimal. Together with my workers I am doing everything to improve the services and where possible to optimize the processes. I realize that there is uncertainty among the insured regarding the implementation of the health care legislation. There are many questions about medical referrals, the related accompaniment and payment of daily allowance."

What Will Be Improved?

"...Backlogs. We expect that we will be able to remove all backlogs in payments by the end of July," says van Zandwijk. "Telephone accessibility will be improved soon with an additional worker. Special attention to be given for improving the communication with general practitioners. ZVK has employed a special complaints officer. A reply will be provided to complaints submitted in writing within six weeks. In September we will start with the computerization of all processes. The complete automated system, which will be introduced in phases, will take a year."

The Medical Referrals Process Will Be Clarified

"When the "house doctor," a general practitioner, advises that a patient must be treated abroad the advice goes to the Health Insurance Office. Since the beginning of June a committee of Fundashon Mariadal doctors advises about the medical importance of this. The Health Insurance Office is the one who ultimately decides. When there is a positive decision the Health Insurance Office makes arrangement for a hotel and a ticket and the payments of the daily allowance is regulated via the bank. This administrative process requires 14 days. For emergency referrals no permission is required from the Health Insurance Office.

To clarify the possibilities for accompaniment with medical referrals, the Health Insurance Office is currently in discussion with general practitioners. Together a concept protocol for this is being drafted wherein it is clearly described which patients and what accompaniment is required. Minor children are always entitled to accompaniment."

Compensation For Medicines

The Health Insurance Office only provides compensation for generic medicines. These are medicines which have the same substances and effects as branded medicine. When a patient specifically wants to use branded medicine he will need to pay this himself. ■ *Press release*

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On the Island Since... August 2008 Ben and Petra Kooman

“The first time we came was April 2005. Some friends called us and said ‘You have to come to Bonaire!’ They were building apartments here and he wanted to sell them to me... at least that was what I thought. Being typically Dutch, we didn’t know much about the Antilles but we came anyhow and after 48 hours we came to the conclusion that we loved the island and its people.

We stayed for a week and came back again three months later for two weeks and then we bought our first property. We continued coming to Bonaire every three months and we said to each other, ‘This will be our island when we retire.’

At the time we were both still working. I had an office working as a commodity broker and Petra was finalizing grain contracts. We were both in the same line of business. Our main activity was to ship grains and proteins all

over the world. So, we had the idea to work for at least for another five years, until one day in the summer of 2007 a nice man in a white coat – also called ‘the doctor’ – told me I needed open heart surgery. It came as a total surprise! After a period of disbelief and a second opinion I had surgery in August 2007. During the recovery period we both came to the conclusion that enough was enough: the hectic life, the traffic jams, the polluted air. For us it became a reason to leave Holland and so, we decided to retire a bit earlier than planned.

Logically we came to Bonaire and the time frame is now August of 2008. Since that period I still had to travel to Holland a lot, to finalize work and sell my office, so we flew up and down to Holland every two weeks for one year. Nice for KLM, but for us it was very tiresome.

In the meantime we had also put our house in The Netherlands

up for sale and we had bought a new house on Bonaire and then recession struck! We couldn’t give away our house in Holland, but then - you need some worries in your life!

However, during the summer of 2009 we were able to sell the house and finally we didn’t have to travel that much anymore. We started our retirement... doing nothing!”

“Boring!” Petra says. “We did it for three months and then we got very bored!” “After our period of rest,” Ben laughs, “Petra kept on maintaining the house and I stepped into the office of Harbortown Real Estate to see if I could be of any use to them. Well, to make a long story short, I finally bought Harbortown in December 2009, together with two friends of mine. I’ve always been a broker so I didn’t see much difference between grains, proteins and houses. And I was right in that sense, because you



Petra and Ben Kooman

are dealing with people and helping them and taking care of them the best way you can; trading grains and selling houses is often based on emotions. The only big difference is that working in real estate you can add more service to your package.

We felt and we still feel at home on Bonaire because the weather, the atmosphere and the people are more in line than what we experienced in Holland. We had to get used to the ‘mañana-effect’ but we came to the conclusion this was very doable! And... in view of the temperature – more than acceptable!

Having an office was not new to me, but having an office with so few customers added a challenge to life. We started reorganizing and found that with our new approach business got better. However, due to the recession, the number of sales was still limited. But... everything would turn for the better after 10-10-10. At least that’s what everybody said. Look at all the promises Holland made. So, the date came and expectations were high. Little did we know what was ahead of us.

Well, at this moment we have a better view of all the new rules,

(Continued on page 5)

“Visiting, coming on vacation, is a completely different thing from living somewhere. In the beginning you feel there’s a huge difference between Holland and Bonaire ...”

			
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

regulations, do's and don'ts that we are facing and I can't say things have turned out for the better. The Dutch government has added random, implemented laws and regulations which are not favorable for Bonaire. Also the change from the guilder to the dollar has not been in favor for Bonaire. In the meantime everybody on the island has experienced the fact that everything has gotten much more expensive compared to last year, in spite of all the promises that this would NOT happen! The Dutch government – in my opinion – has done little to improve the quality of life on Bonaire.

This island depends on tourism for its income. But with all the new taxes, spending a holiday on Bonaire is getting more expensive. If we look at the rates KLM is quoting for Bonaire compared to those for Curaçao, this already puts a limit on the number of people who can afford to come here.

Bonaire has depended on dive tourism for the past years but now figures show that the number of divers is decreasing and that the average age of the divers is increasing. This means that Bonaire will have to look for a new kind of tourism, and those who say that cruise ship tourism is an addition to the island are making

– in my opinion – a big mistake as it puts a tremendous weight on the environment of the island.

I feel we need somebody with a vision, who can come up with a plan for a good, sustainable kind of tourism and make a balance between economy and ecology. Bonaire doesn't have to become Curaçao or Aruba. Bonaire can develop as a green island. We have to realize that if we want economic growth we will have to make adjustments to the island in a way that with more people on the island we have to take good care of our environment at the same time. There are a lot of people on Bonaire who want to help the island get ahead. I think the local government should listen to these people and help where possible. If this happens it will be a win-win situation."

Ben and Petra are a great match as Ben quotes, "She's the brain; I'm the heart." They're hard working people, not afraid of challenges, and they stand by each other, open-minded, energetic and loving and they make it work.

"This is a wonderful place," Petra says. "The people are friendly and laid-back and its nature is gorgeous: the greens, the birds, the butterflies and the beautiful sea. You know, in Holland we were never that conscious about the environment, but

ever since we're here we've become careful and alert, because the impact that pollution has is immediately noticeable. You're instantly confronted with your actions. And..." she laughs, "something completely different: when you're driving around and people wave at you, that's the greatest thing. It makes the island so special!"

When we came here we didn't know what to expect. Visiting, coming on vacation, is a completely different thing from living somewhere. In the beginning you feel there's a huge difference between Holland and Bonaire, but I think it's good for yourself to adjust to a different way of life. Holland is the land of plenty and here you have to do with less. It's good for your character to live with what there is. You become more content and you realize there are more important things in life.

We are spending a lot more time together than we did in Holland, and it is working out very well. We've become so much closer, because you rely on each other. Before we came here, we talked frequently about the effect the move would have on our rela-



Ben and Petra Kooman

tionship and we've hoped for this outcome and we are ever so happy it turned out this way."

"We're both from Rotterdam," Ben says, "and the philosophy we grew up with is: 'Don't talk, but act!' My personal philosophy is to share rather than to grab. We also feel that we should be happy they've allowed us to live here. This is not Holland, this is Bonaire, and it's you who has to adjust."

What we hope for the future is that the measures taken for the environment will work out, that all people on the island will get along and that we can give to-

day's youth a decent future with education and work. The world economy will recover again. It has always been this way and it will also have a positive effect on Bonaire. If we all want Bonaire to be the paradise we think it is, we have to look and plan ahead. Is this a dream? It might be, but... if you have no dreams, you'll have no future."

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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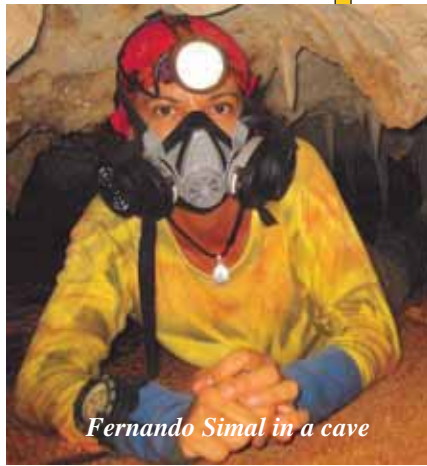
Bat Cave Census and Mapping Workshop

Bats are vital to Bonaire's ecology and agriculture. Bats live in many of Bonaire's caves so it is important to have an accurate knowledge of the island's caves. A workshop is planned to recruit people to perform this work. The workshop is designed to provide the basic knowledge and techniques to create a map of a cave or a cave system located in a sinkhole.

Limited number of participants: The maximum number of participants is 8. Only people in good physical condition and with previous experience in cave exploration should apply. The data collecting work will be carried out in extremely hot, dark, humid and under-sized locations.

Application: You can apply by writing a short e-mail to nature@stinapa.org describing your previous caving experience and your motivations for applying. You can also write a letter with the same information and drop it at the STINAPA Bonaire headquarters office in Barcadera z/n. Application deadline: August 8, 2011.

Background and rationale Given the essential importance of bats and caves for the terrestrial ecosystems of our island, STINAPA Bonaire is working on a comprehensive bat conservation project which includes as one of its components a census and the mapping of all the caves of Bonaire. The estimated number of caves lies between 300 and 400; therefore we need help with this enormous task. At the end of the workshop, depending on financial resources available, those who are able to produce adequate maps could be hired as part-timers for this



Fernando Simal in a cave

bat conservation project by STINAPA Bonaire.

Language: English

Workshop facilitator: Fernando Simal

Workshop location: STINAPA Headquarters @ Barcadera z/n

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1

8:00 - 9:45 Importance Of Bats/ Caves

10:00 - 12:00 Cave Mapping: Safety, Equipment And Other

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:00 Cave Mapping Theory

Day 2

8:00 - 12:00 Data Collecting In The Field (Caves)

12:00 - 2:00 Lunch And Shower

1:30 - 5:00 Creating Maps From The Collected Data

Day 3

8:00 - 12:00 Data Collecting In The Field (Caves)

12:00 - 2:00 Lunch

2:00 - 5:00 Creating Cave Maps And A Storage System

5:00 - 7:00 Certificates And Drinks

■ STINAP Press release and photo

Bon Bini 4G

“Bon Bini 4G.” With those words the head of Digicel Bonaire, Jursi Marshall, kicked off the spectacular press party at It Rains Fishes Restaurant last Friday night. He, Digicel officials including Digicel's regional CEO head, Philip van Dalsen, and the reigning Miss Bonaire, Benazir Charles, introduced Digicel's new cellular service named 4G, for the fourth, and latest, generation of wireless communication. The party and the following big public party at Karel's Beach Bar were stupendous but what does having a 4G network really mean for Bonaire?



Philip van Dalsen and Miss Bonaire Benazir Charles, flanked by Miss Bonaire contestants

If you already access the Internet for email or data via your BlackBerry or smart phone a 4G connection will definitely improve your life. If you only talk or text it won't matter.

If you want to use your smart phone to connect to the Internet for music, movies, data, email or whatever, deciding to upgrade your Internet service to 4G wireless Internet is a no-brainer, even if you don't think that you need the newest and best in Internet upgrades. Here are three advantages that such a move would give you:

1. **You get Internet on the go via your smart phone or computer.** This is the primary advantage of 4G wireless internet that most people look at, though it isn't the only advantage. With this type of connection, your computer's Internet connection becomes something like a cell phone con-

nection. You get a special USB hookup that goes with your laptop, and when you travel, you can pick up Internet access as long as you have a signal, just like you can pick up phone calls on your cell phone whenever you have a signal.

2. **4G wireless Internet is super fast.**

There is a 3G network available today on Bonaire, MIO's, but 4G is twice as fast as 3G. Instead of having to wait for pages to load, videos to stream, and downloads to come through when you're on the go, you can get everything done faster with 4G.

This makes downloading major files or watching streaming content while you're on the go quite simple. Some of Bonaire's tourist operations have been using MIO's 3G to send real-time videos of their guests to the Internet. However, the MIO network's unreliability has been, and continues to be, a problem.

3. There are really good deals on phones and modems that can take advantage of 4G available now from Digicel and even better smart phones are to come. ■ G.D.

Sinds november 2008 heeft Bonaire zijn eigen DA Drogist. De winkel is 120m2 groot en ligt in Oud Salina. In deze winkel kunt u terecht voor alles op het gebied van schoonheid en gezondheid. Daarnaast vindt u in deze winkel het vertrouwde DA Huismerk, leuke cadeau-artikelen en verrassende aanbiedingen.

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neringsgesprekken te voeren. Om een optimale betrokkenheid, kennis en informatieoverdracht te realiseren houd je structureel werkoverleg.

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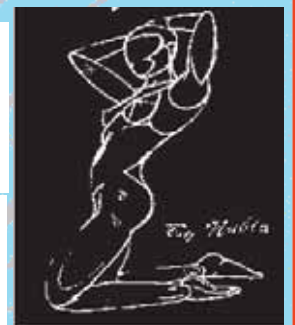
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Improving Bonaire's Competitive Edge



TCB director Lara Chirino (above) has bold plans to further enhance TCB's performance. Facing the many challenges of today's tourism industry, like high ticket prices, she remains positive and feels confident that she and her team are up to the challenge.

Lara's first goal is to improve Bonaire's visibility on the World Wide Web. Secondly Bonaire will have to improve the overall quality of the visitor experience on Bonaire. "TCB will intensify their working relationship with the private sector in an organized fashion in order to improve our competitive edge," so Lara says.

The Internet, gateway to the world

Lara Chirino says, "People have become increasingly internet savvy. If Bonaire wants to compete with its sister islands in the Caribbean we will need to present a clear overview of what Bonaire has to offer vacationers. TCB asks all accommodations

to cooperate with this initiative as it will also benefit them." TCB is working hard to optimize their website, to further improve the island's promotion. The aim is to feature all hotels, apartments, condos and rentals prominently on the TCB website through the booking engine, Expedia. TCB will create a direct link to small accommodations that are only interested in bookings through their own website.

In order to showcase Bonaire's tourism partners in the best possible way, TCB needs to update their database. Therefore TCB is starting with a **room inventory of all accommodations on Bonaire and requests all accommodations to cooperate and fill in the online room inventory sheet.** Accommodations will receive an invitation with a link to the room inventory sheet. Entering this info will only take 10 minutes. It is also possible to upload three photos. Accommodations that have not been approached by TCB are kindly requested to contact press@tourismbonaire.com.

Quality Control & Quality Mark

According to a questionnaire on popular vacation website, Zoover (www.zoover.be), Bonaire scores an 8.7 (on a scale from 1-10). Although there is reason for contentment, our sister island Saba scores a 9.5, which means there is room for improvement! Based on complaints received, TCB determined that vacationers mainly complain about the quality of rooms and the level of service at hotels. As a result TCB will incorporate **Trip Advisor** into their website. Trip Advisor offers an internet platform for vacationers to rate the accom-

modation where they stayed during their holiday. This rating system is entirely impartial and therefore Trip Advisor is instrumental in the decision making process of an increasing number of vacationers. Accommodations that are not measuring up to certain standards will receive bad reviews. Monitoring all comments TCB will follow up with unannounced site inspections through mystery guests. In this matter TCB will contribute to improving the product quality of accommodations.

Tourist Tax

Since 2004 there has been a considerable increase in numbers of homeowners renting out their guest house or apartment. Not everyone is aware of the fact that **paying tourist tax is mandatory as soon as one rents out an apartment to visitors.** This tourist tax is an important source of funding for Bonaire's island promotion. With 80% of the islands economy tied to tourism it is vital to keep promoting Bonaire. But TCB can only do this job well if they receive sufficient funds. Therefore TCB will look into possibilities to work closely with the new Tax Office in order to follow up on this matter. TCB's new director Lara Chirino is determined to get everyone on board. "If you benefit from the tourism sector, you will also need to contribute to it. Not paying Tourist Tax is simply unacceptable." Lara appeals to peoples common sense and hopes they realize that their taxes are directly reinvested in tourism.

"TCB has a great task ahead. TCB's main goal is to promote our beautiful island and

develop our island's tourism in a sustainable manner. Visibility, Quality and Finance are essential to the tourism industry. The tourism industry in its turn is vital to our economy. TCB will take up their responsibility and we trust that all businesses in the tourism sector will cooperate for the benefit of Bonaire." ■ *Press release*

BonQuiz #55

COMMEMORATIVE BUST



There aren't many statues or busts around Bonaire, but this particular one is very interesting. The gentleman depicted here was a loyal and true friend to Bonaire, both politically and socially. The bond between the islands has always been very special and this shines through on Rincon day, for example, when many Arubans come to celebrate this special cultural event. He led Aruba towards its *Status Aparte* position within the Dutch Kingdom. Sadly enough he did not live to see this day crystallize.

**Q) Who is the gentleman this statue is dedicated to?
Which road is named after him?
In what year did Aruba earn its *Status Aparte*?**

Answer on page 17

Bonquiz is written and photographed by *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: christie-dovale@hotmail.com



Q. Where can I find
The Bonaire Reporter?
A. Just about everywhere!

Airport: Divi Divi Air DAE Air EZ Air Insel Air Valerie's Airport Shop	Banks: MCB (Playa & Hato branches) Giro Bank	Restaurants: Bistro de Paris Capriccio China Nobo City Café Elle Deli Gio's Ice Cream Lilly's Ice Cream Lover's Ice Cream-Hato Pasa Bon Pizza Patagonia	Dive Shops: Blue Divers Carib Inn Dive Friends Tropical Divers WannaDive	Shops: Antillean Wine Company Benetton Best Buddies	Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine Chat 'n' Browse City Shop DA Shop DeFreewieler Digicel Exitto Bakery Green Label INPO Kooyman Napa Paradise Photo Playa Trading Hotels: Belafonte Bel Mar Capt. Don's Habitat Carib Inn Den Laman Divi Flamingo Eden Beach Plaza Resort Roomers Sand Dollar Supermarkets: Cultimara Go Green Joke's Mini Market More for Less Progresso Sunshine	TIS Warehouse Zhung Kong Government: Bestuurscollege RCN Tax Office Building (Playa) RCN Building Customs Parliament BVO The Prison Others: Bonfysio at Bon Bida Spa Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine Caribbean Laundry Centro di Medico Dentist Office Von Egmond Extra Newspaper Office Green Label Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Health & Fitness Center Napa Photo Tours	RSA Insurance Rocargo San Francisco Hospital TCB Telbo WEB office Bookstores: Addo's Books & Toys Flamingo Bookstore Realty Offices: Bonaire Sunshine Homes Caribbean Homes Harbourtown Realty Re/Max Paradise Homes Sunbelt Realty In Rincon: Chinese Store Joi Fruit Store Rincon Bakery Rose Inn Tusnara Market
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Fires and Cars on Beaches Destroy Sea Turtle Nests



Tell-tale car tracks on the beach. Turtle nests can be damaged by cars.

On the evening of Saturday, June 18, a group of people were enjoying a *gezellig* fun evening by a fire on the beach just 20 meters from a sea turtle nest at the north of Fisherman's Hut on the southwest coast. Between the fire and the nest were also deep tire marks left by a vehicle.

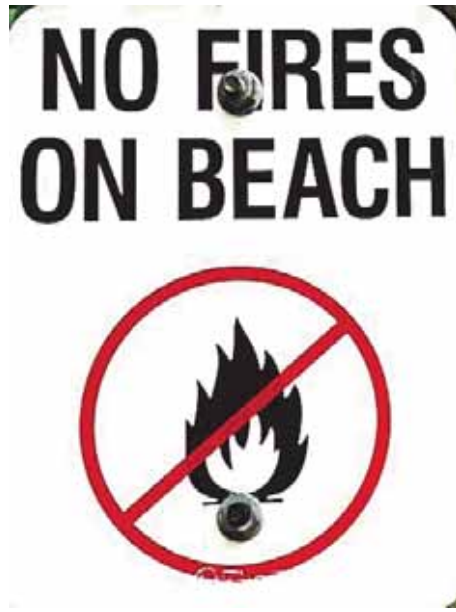
Luckily Peter Domacassé and Starling Verginie, two fishermen in the area, noticed the illegal fire. Disturbed and worried about the nests, Mr. Domacassé rapidly called STCB manager Mabel Nava. Mabel arranged to meet Marine Park Manager Ramon de Leon at the site. At the site of the fire the two managers discovered that the group who had built the fire were residents. The group claimed they were unaware that beach fires are illegal and that they had been told "that it was possible and fun to do."

STCB received the group's claim as a wake-up call because illegal fires and cars on the beach do destroy turtle nests and the lack of awareness of the group indicates that there may be inadequate awareness in the community.

Bonaire beaches shelter an average of 80 nests every year. The 2011 nesting season is in full swing with 3 nests in the Fisherman's Hut area and 18 nests on Klein Bonaire. We can't afford to lose them as a consequence of bad practices that are easily avoided.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire is a non-governmental organization that has been protecting sea turtles on Bonaire since 1991. Sea turtles, their eggs and their habitats are fully protected under the law *Eilandsverordening tot Bescherming van de Zeeschildpadden en Kreeften*. In addition, The Netherlands is a signatory party of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles, an international treaty between countries in the Americas. All these levels of protection are necessary because sea turtles are threatened with extinction worldwide.

The seven species that roam the oceans are considered endangered and two of those, the hawksbill and leatherback, are identified as critically endangered on the



IUCN red list. Protecting sea turtles on Bonaire is a responsibility of the country, and all citizens need to be engaged if we are to succeed.

Taking care of our beaches is a good first step. There are many reasons why beach fires are illegal, from aesthetics to protecting human health and sea turtles' nests. Beaches are not extensive on Bonaire and we need to take good care of them for all inhabitants to be able to enjoy them safely.

We can protect our beaches by following simple practices:

1. **Avoid using plastics and Styrofoam** on the beach and when used make sure that they are disposed in a safe place, preferably taken back at the departure time
2. Last year Bonaire passed a law **prohibiting dogs on beaches**. Be aware that our pets leave bacteria behind when they urinate and defecate and these bacteria are easily transmitted to humans by contact with the sand. Some dogs are also a threat to turtle nests because their keen sense of smell leads them to dig and destroy the eggs.
3. **Enjoy the sky and the stars without having to light up a fire!** Fires are illegal because they are extremely destructive to the beaches, damaging the quality of the sand for all users including sea turtle babies. They physically destroy a nest in less time that the fire can disappear.
4. **Park your vehicle on the side of the road** or in a place that has no sand or vegetation. Sand and vegetation are the basic ingredients of a healthy beach. Vehicles leak oil and gas and other pollutants onto the ground.
5. **Please call Bonaire National Marine Park at 717-8444 to report illegal and destructive incidents and call STCB's hotline at 780-0433 to report incidents related to sea turtles and their habitats.** ■ Mabel Nava

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is a non-governmental research and conservation organization that has been protecting sea turtles since 1991. Our mission is to ensure the protection and recovery of Bonaire's sea turtle populations throughout their range. You can email us at stcb@bonaireturtles.org.

Diveheart Dives Bonaire

This past July 9-16, Diveheart of Downers Grove, Illinois and Shriners Hospitals for Children teamed up for their 10th annual adventure scuba diving trip. Five children, who have sustained spinal cord injuries, traveled with Diveheart volunteers for a life-altering scuba diving adventure to Bonaire.



Diveheart provides scuba diving opportunities and adventures to children, adults and veterans with disabilities. "This is a chance for these kids to escape gravity, get out of their wheelchairs and benefit from physical therapy in a zero gravity environment," said Jim Elliott, president and founder of Diveheart. "This Diveheart trip is not only an incredible tool in helping to build confidence, independence and self esteem in these young people, but it's a place where they can do something adventurous that many of their able bodied friends don't do."


Sara Klaas, director of spinal cord injuries at Shriners Hospital in Chicago, said that of all of the activities that Shriners Hospitals introduce to kids, scuba diving is among their favorites. "They like that they don't need wheelchairs or special adaptive equipment. In the water, all divers look alike," she said. "Many of the kids who join the program were athletes and very energetic before they were injured. They need to find ways to get back and into play and stay active. Programs like this show them that

everything is still available to them."

Participants and volunteers stayed at the Divi Flamingo in Bonaire. Elliott says, "This is a perfect place to bring divers with disabilities. The staff is trained to work with individuals with disabilities in and out of the water. And the aquatic environment in Bonaire is very forgiving with warm, clear water, making for easy but beautiful diving. It's one of the best diving spots in the world for divers with and without disabilities." Special thank you to Taxi 7/ Ayubi's Tours, and Rob Boutmy for the island tour given to the group to see all of Bonaire's, above water, in the newest wheelchair accessible bus transfers. "The Diveheart Program makes a gigantic difference in these kids' lives," Sara Klaas says.




"Scuba diving is an adventure sport so they think, 'If I can do this, I can do anything.'" The group was coordinated by Mike Arellano, owner of Scuba Travel Ventures, mike@scubatravelventures.com ■

Press release


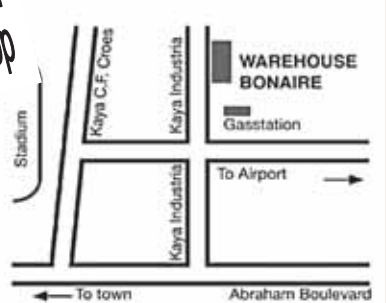


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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 90th 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+

Louis Posner's Triumph America

Republiek/Bonaire – Monday the 27th of June was a memorable day. That day Louis Posner and his wife stopped at my gate because they had read some classifieds in *The Bonaire Reporter* about boats and vehicles for sale. It was around happy hour and a lot of cars were parked in front of my house. Louis Posner looked over the fence, admiring a boat and a motorcycle. His wife supposed there was a party going on and she was right. It was my 55th birthday and I had become a *pensionado*!

A couple of days later Louis and his wife, her sister and her brother-in-law visited me again. They liked the house, the boat, the motorcycle. We had a drink and a talk about life, the island, relationships. Then Louis informed me about his motorcycle: a Triumph America. I had never seen a motorcycle like that in my entire life and I asked Louis for permission to interview him for the newspaper. That same day at 4 o'clock in the afternoon the solid sound of a two cylinder delighted the barrio of Hato. Louis Posner, brand new Ennia cap, blue and sturdy Triumph vest, parked his bright and shiny Triumph America and stopped the engine...

Louis Posner, born on the island of Curaçao in 1955, has been on wheels since 1967. Those days he was the owner of a German-made Zündapp moped at the age of 12. His parents did not know. Then, in 1973, he went to Europe to study. In The Netherlands he owned a French made Mobyette, a brand new Tomos and a (perhaps illegal because of the engine size/jb) 80 cc Yamaha. All vehicles were fitted with two-stroke engines as his first real motorcycle was: a poison green colored Kawasaki three-cylinder. In 1977 Louis returned to the island of Curaçao. He got married in 1979 and he left for the US in 1980. Louis remembers several Honda motorcycles, four cylinders, even six cylinders. But his wife did not really like motorcycles, so...

So Louis and his former wife went to the States and Louis found a job in the marine business. Later he even had his own company. Louis explains, "As long as it moves and it has oil in it I can maintain, repair and overhaul it!" From 2003 to 2005 Louis worked for Triumph Motors USA. He really likes Triumph motorcycles and he prefers them above the Harley-Davidsons. "Nice and impressive but too heavy and a little bit old fashioned. Did you know Harley started producing motorcycles in 1903 and Triumph started in 1902?" I did not know. Louis experienced all kinds of new generation Triumphs. In 17 American States he covered miles on Triumphs. He drove the three-cylinder Triumph Rocket (2004), the Bonneville T100, the Triumph Tiger, the Thruxton and the Triumph Bonneville America (2003). This Bonneville America was a gift from the Triumph Company. And it is this Triumph Louis loves best. (Apart



Louis Posner on top of his second best love

from his second wife who in fact was his first love and always has been./jb) Louis' Triumph Bonneville America is a British motorcycle designed and made by Triumph Motorcycles Ltd., in Hinckley, Leicestershire, England.

The bike is very different compared to the standard Bonneville. The America is longer and lower and has an increased steering angle. It has a fat rear tire and the looks of an American-made bike combined with European quality and knowledge. This Triumph has a large fuel tank to cover days of miles. A chrome console holds the filler, the speedometer, warning lights and a clock. Footrests are moved to the front and all kinds of details, like the perforated fittings behind the carburetors, give the bike a retro look. The Triumph Bonneville America is a cruiser. Handle bars are wide, seats are low, wheelbase is long. Handling and mileage are good.

Louis' bike measures 865 cc and is air cooled. His machine is a little bit tickled and produces some 70+ horse power. (The original America does 54 bhp at 6800 revolutions per minute./jb) The bike has a 270 degree firing angle— weird for European drivers. This firing angle results in a kind of V-twin sound: "Blop-blop, blop-blop, blop-blop, blop-blop" instead of "Blop-blop-blop-blop-blop-blop-blop-blop," the characteristic sound of a vertical twin.

Then it is already time to go. Time flies when there is a talk between similar spirits. And a motorcycle like this motorcycle is a demanding motorcycle and Louis is not into a bad relationship. This bike really needs a ride. So Louis starts the engine, pumping up the oil pressure. We shake hands. I am so glad there is another Triumph lover on the island. Then Louis shifts the five-speed gearbox into first gear. The rear chain is ready to deliver power to the fat 15-inch rear wheel. Louis adds some \$5 of rear-wheel-rubber to the Bonairean tarmac. In the meantime at the beach his beloved wife is waiting for him and she did not forget his swimming pants. Eternal love exists. And for real lovers there is always the choice out of two without the necessity to choose! ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Body Talk

REGAIN YOUR HEALTH - WITH

THE MOST AMAZING NATURAL CURE

I cannot help but wonder as you start reading this article, whether you expect me to tell you about the healing properties of herbs, or minerals or whatever else there is in the world! Well, then you are going to be very disappointed, because the most amazing natural cure for most disease and ill health and the best diet in the world, guaranteed to make you lose weight, is absolutely FREE!

Let us first look at why we have health problems. We are loaded to the max on toxins, we have nutritional deficiencies, we are exposed to electromagnetic chaos, we have mental and emotional stress, our water is not pure and our food has been tampered with.

To add to all this, we take a multitude of medications, we consume huge amounts of sugar daily, we drink alcohol, we do not sleep enough and some of us live on "fast" foods! Is it any wonder that the human race is getting sicker and sicker.

People always want to know what the "natural" cure is for their disease, but in fact the natural cure for any disease is exactly the same. In general, no matter what disease you have, whether it is cancer, heart disease, diabetes, fibromyalgia, high blood pressure, allergies, asthma, constipation or PMS, the CURE is the same because the CAUSE is the same! Look at the previous two paragraphs again. You were not born with high blood pressure, or with diabetes, or with fibromyalgia, or with liver problems, or with stress!

Contrary to popular belief, it is not natural to consume alcohol, or sugar, or fast foods, or bad oils, or eat a lot of fruit, or meat or fish every day.

We put an enormous amount of energy into cleaning the house and garden, into our career, in keeping our children occupied and into entertaining

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.



friends. How much time do we really spend planning our meals? It is far easier to ask the lady of the household to clean an entire house than to ask her to plan three simple meals! Try it! How many of you also "eat on the run"?

To lose weight, to be healthy and energetic (regardless of your age!), focus on your food! I have written on many occasions about **only** eating 3 meals per day and no snacking in between meals! That glass of wine you enjoy so much, is converted into glucose in the body! So many people have sugar handling stress, causing a host of problems, seemingly totally unrelated to their health problems. One day can't hurt?

Another big culprit in today's diet is the over-consumption of carbohydrates leading to an over-acidity of body fluids! Remember, you want to consume proteins with each meal, three meals a day! So many people fill themselves with carbohydrates (fuel) and either do not bother or forget that protein is needed for building and repairing the body!

So, all considered, to regain your health and to stay healthy, look at your diet. What can be more natural for your body than simply prepared foods, raw foods, no sugar or alcohol, no caffeine, no food colorants and preservatives, filtered water, no fried foods and very little fruit?

Disease and ill health is caused by your diet, why not use your diet to correct this? If you should be judged by the quality and nutritional value of food on your table, will you pass with flying colors, or will you fail miserably? ■ Stephanie Bennett

Next issue: **Big Pharma Now Also Nutritionists**

Latin Music Classics

Trini Lopez was born in 1937 in Texas. He began his entertainment career in Dallas playing at the Vegas Club, before being "discovered" in 1962. His debut album included "If I Had a Hammer," which reached number one in 36 countries. It sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc. His popularity led the Gibson Guitar Corporation to ask him in 1964 to design a guitar for them.

Trini Lopez scored 13 chart-singles through 1968. Beyond his success on record, he became one of the country's top nightclub-performers of that era, regularly headlining in Las Vegas. During the 1960s and 1970s, he continued his musical career with extensive tours in Europe and Latin America during this period. Since then, Lopez has done charitable work and he is still recording and appearing live in the 2000s.

Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: "If I Had A Hammer" is the famous hit of Trini Lopez. This week's winner is Klaus Kolbe.

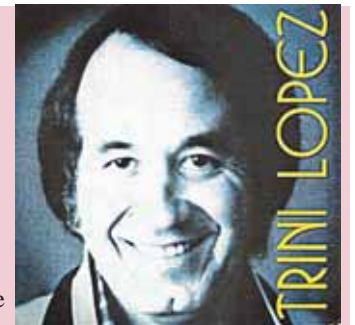
He can pick up the free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18.

This week's question:

What is the most famous Panpipe-song? 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 shop at Lagoen Hill #18.

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



Jody's

Jody's Fashion & Music

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

In their collection they have 100% original brands like: Nike, G-Star, Replay, Lacoste, Zuccherro, A Priori and Zulu. At the Friday crafts 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.

Boas On the Loose So, What's It Like Being a Nursemaid...

We park the Jeep on the eastern border of Aruba's Arikok National Park. For five minutes I follow Diego Marquez, the park's biologist, over a craggy limestone terrain much like on Bonaire. We suddenly stop at a huliba tree. "Can you find the snake?" asks Marquez. I scan the branches and leaves for a full minute. Try as I might, I see no reptile. "OK. I give up."

Marquez points to the base of the trunk with his snake hook and I instantly see a 4-foot boa constrictor. "This one is head down in ambush mode waiting for a lizard. Welcome to the Boa Forest."

For another hour, we search for other boas but only find one more. I pass right by a 6-foot long specimen well camouflaged on a wind-swept tree. Marquez again points it out. He then informs me that the first boa constrictor was spotted in Aruba's wilds in 1999. Most experts think that it was probably an escaped pet. By 2008, over 800 boas were captured. Today, it is estimated that 5,000 are on the loose all over the island. The snakes are found in hotel rooms, people's backyards, even in cars. This is an invasion unchecked. While boas are unnerving Aruba's residents, they have a devastating impact on the island's wild birds.

"The brown throated parakeet has really been decimated," claims Greg Peterson, president of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation Foundation. "I used to see hundreds in a flock. Now if I can see 9-10 in a group, it's been a really good day."

Another bird hit hard by the boa is the *Shoko*, a subspecies of the burrowing owl found only on Aruba. Peterson dissected a killed boa one day and found four *shokos*, an entire family, in the belly of the snake. *Shoko* population estimates are only around 200 pairs. Plus, Peterson complains that the

santanero, Aruba's endemic cat-eyed snake, is often confused with the boa and mistakenly killed. As a member of the Boa Task Force, he has made training videos so that citizens who hunt boas can distinguish between the two species. The task force is offering a 10 flo-



Photo Greg Peterson

A boa squeezes a troupial before devouring it. In addition to escaped pets it's thought that some boas arrived on Aruba in loads of sand and building materials.

rin bounty for each live boa brought to Aruba's veterinary center.

But the big squeeze on the environment cannot be blamed on the boa alone. According to Facundo Franken from Aruba's Nature Management unit, people are just as much to blame. He believes that habitat fragmentation, checkerboard development that essentially destroys natural habitat due to human encroachment, is the real problem. "Look at it this way," says Franken. "When you see those boas in the wild, they are trying to survive just like us. And we don't belong there either if you want to really look at the situation. If you are making excuses for people, why wouldn't you do that for a species?"

Without the political will, it is doubtful that development is going to diminish any time soon. Aruba, in the process of fueling its robust tourism industry, has conveniently ignored its impact on the environment. Plus, this is an island that has nearly doubled its population to 110,000 in a generation, and the natural world has taken the brunt of this people explosion.

And then there remains the problem with the snakes. "The Boa Task Force is urging the government to set up a bio security unit," explains Arikok's Diego Marquez. "We need daily patrols in high density areas, places like roois (arroyos) in the city. They are perfect places for snakes since they have plenty of water and birds. But until Aruba has a dedicated Department of Environment in place, we can't effectively control the boa." ■ Patrick Holian

Patrick Holian is a writer and film journalist living on Bonaire.



Greg Peterson after a Boa Task Force hunt

... to 82 Lora and Prichiki Chicks Stolen from Their Nests?

Some of the babes are half-naked; others with pin feathers; and a few with almost adult plumage. All must be fed twice a day by a group of volunteer nursemaids equipped with syringes to suck up the special, warm porridge of fruit, almonds, beans, chick food, etc. and insert in one beak after another. Feeding is a circus complete with non-stop squawking which rings in my ears for hours after I have left. Half of the food ends up on my shirt, probably because I am a messy eater myself, which makes for a messy "mother."

The Lora chicks are the easiest to feed: wide-open mouths, bobbing heads, and big guttural noises. No eating disorders here—they want it now and they want it fast! The Prichikis are divided into two groups. First are the very young, wobbly ones with teeny beaks that try to gobble but end up dribbling quite a bit, which means more patience to fill their crops and more food on my shirt and even in my hair. Then there are the teenagers, confident enough to sit on your hand, slurp hardily for a few minutes, but then lose interest and consider flying about to see the world outside their box. They all seem to be saying, "Gee Mom don't you have anything else I can eat besides this boring cereal?" I am so happy when one of these is considered "done" with formula and receives a blue mark on the head so he/she can graduate to eating solid food.

After the feeding comes the cleaning—of the chicks, not me. A towel dampened with warm water is used to wipe their beaks and feathers clean to prevent bacteria from making the birds sick. This is my favorite part



of the whole routine because it removes all evidence of my sloppy inexperience as a nursemaid and means that my charge can return to a clean box to digest and defecate the hours away. (Besides there is a lot less noise coming from the containers of satiated chicks.)

The whole feeding protocol is interrupted constantly by replenishment of the porridge cup for the next customer, adding more hot water to the heating bowl to make sure the gruel is "parrot body" temperature, getting another clean towel for beak cleaning, and keeping the "nest" bowl clean. Heard over the din of squawking are constant orders and notes of encouragement from my fellow nursemaids: "Come on, you can take in some more!" or "Please don't bite the hand that is feeding you, dear" or "Take it easy, I am feeding you as fast as I can." Occasionally, one of the babes will look up at me adoringly as if to ask, "Are you my mother?" "I know then that the chaos is causing me to hallucinate, and I need some air."

After almost three hours, the full chicks are back in their "box-nests" and all of us are covered in a sweet-smelling pabulum that clings to nostrils and coats dreams later that night. One of mine is that all these chicks will return to nature and might even remember when they see me in the garden from their perch on the genip tree that I was one of their nursemaids way back when. ■

Pauline Kayes



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Junior Ranger Graduates Help the Bonaire Parrot Rescue



Gideon and Rayen feeding the young birds

As mentioned in the last edition of The Reporter, on Friday, July 1, "Parrot PhD" Sam Williams joined Elsmarie Beukenboom and Din Domacassé from STINAPA and several policemen and went to a kunuku in the Mexico bario belonging to B.T.F.E. (initials) from which 14 lora and about 100 prikichi (mostly) chicks were confiscated. They left the crocodiles for later pickup by Elly Albers of the Animal Protection Foundation.

Most of the chicks (11 loras and about 80 prikichis) are not weaned and so need hand feeding. It seems the poachers had not been feeding them and most were very thin. This is an update.

Bonaire youngsters Gideon Goedgedrag and Rayen Seraus have joined an international team helping Echo, Bonaire's parrot conservation organization, to save over 100 illegally collected parrot and parakeet chicks. The starving baby birds were seized by STINAPA Bonaire and the local police two weeks ago.

Since then Echo has been working non-stop to feed the malnourished birds. Gideon and Rayen, graduates of STINAPA's junior ranger program, have played an important role in saving Bonaire's parrots and parakeets.

On Friday July 1st, STINAPA Bonaire seized several small boxes of starving parrot chicks and dirty cages full of endangered Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots and Brown-throated Parakeets, both native to Bonaire. The parrots were released to Dr Sam Williams of Echo, who together with a team of volunteers immediately began feeding the malnourished and un-weaned chicks. Although unprepared, the Echo team have coped with the tremendous strain and are succeeding in keeping the parrots alive.

"To begin with it was taking a team of five people nearly three hours to feed all the chicks and clean up, and we are feeding at least two times a day!" said Dr Sam Williams, Director of Echo. "On the first night we worked late into the night with head torches and lanterns as we quickly adapted our kunuku field site into a rehabilitation centre."

Now Jong Bonaire is generously supporting the parrot rescue and this has made it much easier for the Echo team to look after the chicks. Gideon and Rayen are part of the



Just a few of the parrots that must be hand fed twice daily-see page 10 story

team and they have been great workers, not only feeding the parrots but also helping with keeping the whole project going.

Many of the chicks were starving and one parrot was already dead but still left in one of the cages. They had been kept in appalling conditions and we suspect without food for several days. "We lost one bird straight away. He was just too weak but so far that is it. Now they are doing really well and some are already outside in an aviary," added Dr Williams. One of the parrots was only one week old and his eyes had not even opened. Everyone on the team has grown fond of him as he is tiny and has no feathers yet. "We are treating these birds as wild animals but we couldn't resist naming him Sid," confessed Dr. Williams.

The parrot rescue has caught the attention of parrot enthusiasts worldwide. Within days of hearing about the crisis Phobe Linden, a pet parrot expert from California, came to Bonaire specifically to support the rescue effort. Her help with the growing chicks will be invaluable.

The illegal collection of parrot chicks is a big problem throughout the world and Bonaire is no exception. The Echo team's observations over the last six years show that 1/3 of parrot chicks are illegally collected by people before they leave the nest. This is despite the collection of wild parrots being

against the law on Bonaire since 1952. Following the 10/10/10 transition Bonaire is now part of The Netherlands and so the Dutch government is ultimately responsible for the protection of these endangered species.

Bonaire's population of endangered Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots is globally significant for the species. The parrots are also found in Venezuela but poaching there is so intense the populations are in decline. Humans have already been responsible for the extinction of this species from Aruba in the 1940s. Having already successfully released confiscated parrots back into the wild on Bonaire, Echo will now look at the exciting possibility of re-introducing some of these confiscated parrots on to Aruba.

Parrots are considered next to the great apes and then humans in terms of their intelligence. Recent studies have demonstrated they can even work together to solve problems. Consequently there are serious moral



Some of the older birds

tion and release possible. Your support can make the difference. Please donate today!

For more images go to: <https://public.me.com/samkunuku>

Echo - Parrot Rescue http://www.echobonaire.org/Parrot_rescue

Echo - Parrot Rescue Crisis video

The Echo Team

About Echo

Established in 2010 Echo is dedicated to the protection of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot, which is threatened with extinction. On Bonaire there are only 800 left. Illegal poaching continues and people cut open nest trees to steal the chicks. By providing solutions to threats such as illegal trade and habitat degradation our work benefits these incredible parrots and their ecosystem on Bonaire.

www.echobonaire.org



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Donation page <http://www.razoo.com/story/Savebonaireparrots>

Or contact The Bonaire Reporter 786-6125

and ethical issues with removing the young of such intelligent animals from their parents and then confining them to captivity for their long lives (potentially 50+ years).

In response to the needs of the parrots the World Parrot Trust and The World Nature Fonds have provided immediate funding to enable the Echo team to care for all the parrots. Echo has also launched a campaign to raise funds: www.razoo.com/story/savebonaireparrots There is a lot to do before it will be possible to release these birds back into the wild and your support is very important for the future of these parrots and parakeets.

Bonaire's government has made good first steps to prevent the illegal capture and trade in parrots by implementing a pet parrot amnesty and registration campaign in 2002. All pet parrots were ringed and subsequently any person found to have a pet without a ring faces prosecution and confiscation. Earlier this year support from Fly Free made it possible for Echo to successfully rehabilitate and release 11 confiscated illegal pet parrots.

The parrots confiscated in this seizure will be fed and cared for until they are rehabilitated. Because of Echo's successful earlier release, Dr. Williams is confident the parrots will make it back to the wild where they belong. Echo desperately needs donations to care for the birds and make their rehabilita-

Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's Lorans for over seven years. Find out more



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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
JULY Fri 22		02:23 0.15 ft	06:07 0.31 ft	12:40 -0.03 ft	19:19 0.78 ft	6:20	19:04
Sat 23	MOON L Quarter	03:17 0.09 ft	06:55 0.24 ft	12:58 -0.02 ft	19:48 0.85 ft	6:20	19:03
Sun 24		04:07 0.04 ft	07:41 0.18 ft	13:16 -0.02 ft	20:18 0.91 ft	6:20	19:03
Mon 25		04:57 -0.01 ft	08:26 0.12 ft	13:34 -0.02 ft	20:51 0.96 ft	6:21	19:03
Tue 26		05:46 -0.04 ft	09:13 0.08 ft	13:55 -0.03 ft	21:27 0.99 ft	6:21	19:03
Wed 27		06:36 -0.07 ft	10:05 0.04 ft	14:18 -0.02 ft	22:05 1.01 ft	6:21	19:03
Thu 28		07:22 -0.09 ft	11:08 0.03 ft	14:47 -0.01 ft	22:46 1.00 ft	6:21	19:02
Fri 29		08:02 -0.10 ft	12:25 0.06 ft	15:28 0.04 ft	23:30 0.96 ft	6:21	19:02
Sat 30	New Moon	08:38 -0.11 ft	13:41 0.12 ft	16:38 0.11 ft		6:22	19:02
Sun 31		00:18 0.90 ft	09:08 -0.11 ft	14:39 0.24 ft	18:28 0.19 ft	6:22	19:01
AUGUST Mon 01		01:12 0.80 ft	09:38 -0.11 ft	15:25 0.38 ft	20:32 0.23 ft	6:22	19:01
Tue 02		02:11 0.69 ft	10:08 -0.11 ft	16:08 0.54 ft	22:23 0.19 ft	6:22	19:01
Wed 03		03:17 0.57 ft	10:40 -0.11 ft	16:51 0.71 ft	23:54 0.11 ft	6:22	19:00
Thu 04		04:24 0.46 ft	11:15 -0.11 ft	17:34 0.87 ft		6:22	19:00
Fri 05		01:09 0.02 ft	05:31 0.37 ft	11:52 -0.11 ft	18:19 1.00 ft	6:23	19:00

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Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

THE WHAT AND WHY OF BONAIRE'S REAL ESTATE MARKET

We are frequently asked, "What happened to Bonaire's real estate market and Why did it happen?"

Bonaire's real estate market continued to be strong, positive and vibrant through 2008 despite the bubble bursting in 2006 for most of the world's real estate. 2009 saw a slowing and softening of the market.

While part of that trend was a reflection of the world markets and economic jitters, most of the apprehension was due to local conditions, especially the political uncertainty surrounding the 10-10-10 redefinition of the relationship with Holland.

Early 2010 saw a very sharp decline in real estate activity. This was in part a reflection of the world situation but mostly due to the political uncertainty. It seemed that every day brought 180-degree changes in the 2010 process. The dialogue over Bonaire post 10-10-10 was also changing radically.

In the late spring of 2010 the larger framework of 10-10-10 became clearer and there was a marked increase in real estate activity and overall economic activity. 10-10-10 also coincided with increased economic activity in America, Holland and the EU. The future of Bonaire and especially real estate on Bonaire was glowing brightly.

2011 was going to be a turnaround year. Everyone was bullish and then the bottom dropped out of the world and Bonaire economies and markets. Holland and the EU went into a sharply slowing economic mode. It began with fears of bankruptcy by Greece. The fear of bankruptcy spread to Ireland, Portugal, and to a lesser extent Spain and Italy.

Every month there was a new financial crisis. What started in Greece in March spread to Ireland in April and Portugal in May and Spain in early June. In mid-June Greece almost defaulted on its obligations and five weeks later the situation has not improved. In mid-July the crisis spread to Italy with a run on its banks and significant stock market turmoil. The Euro has undergone six months of gyrations as uncertainty spreads and grows.

America at the very same time had its own financial issues. The economy looked as if it was going to create the long awaited jobs revolution in the first quarter of 2011. The second quarter jobs reports dropped a bombshell on the economy. America went from creating several hundred thousand jobs a month to creating 18,000 jobs in June. The beacon of economic recover went from bright to very dim. At the same time America entered a budget deficit- debt-ceiling crisis reminiscent of a banana



republic rather than an AAA bond rated country.

The economies of the EU and America drive Bonaire's real estate market. If the both economies are strong it means that over 600 million people are doing well and feel confident about their economic future. They feel secure in their ability to enjoy all that life offers. Even if the price of that enjoyment means investing in a faraway Paradise.

If either America or the EU, especially Holland, is doing well economically it means Bonaire will do well. 330 million people feeling financially confident about the future will have a very positive impact on an island of 15,000. This two "sources of income" approach in Bonaire has always been one of its strongest financial underpinnings.

Its legal and political ties to Holland and the EU ties Bonaire to Europe. It is tied to America by its currency and tourism revenue. Today is a rare moment in Bonaire's history and it means a huge buying opportunity.

Bonaire is experiencing the best buyer's market in a lifetime. The supply of homes for sale has never been higher while the demand for homes has never been lower. Seller motivation to sell has never been higher. When the economic pendulums begin to reverse in America, Holland and the EU the change on Bonaire will be swift and positive. Opportunity is knocking. Do you hear it knocking? ■ *Anna & Art Kleimer*

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors."
Email: Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com



Picture Yourself With The Reporter on a... Warship Off Bonaire

Photo by Leo Hoogenboom of "Bon Photo"



This is Heidi, an English language teacher at the SGB high school. She's on the high-tech bridge of Her Netherlands Majesty's Ship *Johan de Witt* with *The Bonaire Reporter*.

Together with some children of her class and several dozen other Bonaireans she participated as volunteer in the training exercises of the royal marines earlier this month.

On the third day of the exercises some people in wheelchairs even participated. According to eye-witnesses it was good to see how those people were helped by the sailors on board. One lady was carried around in the arms of a big strong marine! ■



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NARCISIO CAROLUS, the COCONUT KING of BONAIRE has passed away.

AKA Buchi, he was most often seen sitting in his tree chair along the waterfront, counting the containers coming on and off the Don Andres.

Buchi, always talking with anyone who would stop to chat, especially the ladies. Buchi, the tall handsome guy with white hair with a pony tail, often swinging his machete chopping coconuts for the cruise ship tourists by the south pier, even at 80 years old. Buchi, spotted occasionally dining at his favorite Maiky Snack.

Buchi, often seen in the grocery stores looking for the best deals on Amstel



Malta. Buchi, a true Bonaire icon. Buchi- Narcisio Carolus... Thanking his friends and family who went to show respect at his funeral. Thank you for being his friend. He will be missed by all who know him. The island will miss him.

RIP, Buchi -

Your loving friend and neighbor, JP

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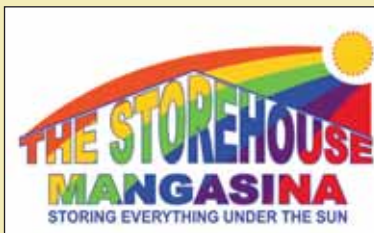
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Bonaire Sailors Keep Winning



Bonaire kitesurfers on Aruba, From left to right: Martin Cicilia, Judith Roetman, Chris Zweers, Zwaantje Kooij, Amy van Hooff, Pieter Zweers (not shown: Sebastiaan Wegerer)

Thirteen Bonairean windsurfers and seven kitesurfers travelled to Aruba to take part in the 25th Aruba Hi Winds 2011 held from June 29 through July 4. It is one of the pioneer windsurfing events. They returned with numerous prizes. In the Sunfish Worlds, held in Curaçao June 12-19, the young Bonaire team (from 14-17 years old) did well, finishing in the middle of a large international contingent

Kitesurfing

The kitesurfers representing Bonaire were Pieter and Christiaan Zweers, Martin Cicilia, Zwaantje Kooij, Judith Roetman, Amy van Hooff and Sebastian Wegerer.

There were a total of 45 surfers participating in this growing part of the Aruba Hi-Winds, with participants from Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, The Netherlands, Aruba and Bonaire.

Each year, the freestyle competition is held at Boca Grandi and always guarantees a good deal of high powered action for the public. In the men's category, 16-year-old Christian Zweers took on 13 participants and rode a spectacular set of heats, bringing him into the finals in which he defeated leading man Honorio Coello from Colombia. Sebastian Wegerer

finished fifth, a very good result for his first time competing.

In the women's freestyle category the battle was fought between Aruba's Annabel Westerop, Bonaire's Zwaantje Kooij and Judith Roetman. Judith defeated Zwaantje in the semi-finals and went into the finals against Annabel. It was a thrilling heat in which Judith came in second.

For the long distance races there were 33 participants in the men's category, and 12 in the women's category. Imagine that many kitesurfers all starting simultaneously and you will have an idea of the spectacular sight it was for the public at Fisherman's Huts.

In the women's category Judith Roetman came in second place, Zwaantje Kooij was fifth Amy van Hooff sixth. Bonaire offers great conditions for kitesurfers to improve their skills and it was shown off on Aruba.

Thanks to sponsors: OutletMol surf shop Bonaire, Nobile, Slingshot and Van den Berg Sports.

Windsurfing

As usual Bonaire participants performed superbly in the competition held at the Fishermen's Huts. Top finishers were:



Bonaire Windsurfers and fans at the Aruba Hi Winds

King of the Huts was Evertson "Choko" Frans

- Barakuda Freestyle Class
- 1 Place- Nathan Finies
- 2 Place- Milton Frans
- 1 Place Master - Constatino "Patun" Saragoza
- 2 Place Woman - Monique Meijers
- 3 Place Sport - Marvellous Maingot
- 2 Place Slalom Superkid - Stephers Gustowski

Stichting Aquaspeed Bonaire Windsurfers thanks their sponsors for their support for the trip to the Aruba Hi Winds 2011. For more info, photos, results and videos, go to www.hiwinds-aruba.com. ■ Press releases/G.D.



Sunfish youth sailors (pictured above) learned so much and gained enormous racing experience. Sailors are Juan Alvarez, Ruben van Eldik, Shahir Theodora and Santiago Alvarez. They ended at 11, 21, 12 and 14th place. Bonaire's adult entrants were: Sipke Stappert, Juan Alvarez, George Soliano and Ton Nuijten.

More info at www.sunfishworlds2011.com



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, July 30—Farmers' Market, 8 am—noon. At the parking lot next to Telbo, across from Go Green. Fresh, island grown fruits and vegetables.

Saturday, August 6—**Big Rincon Market**, 8 am –2 pm, fresh produce, gifts, crafts, local food, drinks, music. In the town center.

Monthly Flea Market at We Dare to Care Park—2—6 pm. Rent a table for \$10, Call 701-1103 or 787-1475.

TANGO WEEKEND

Saturday, Sunday, July 30-31—**Tango Workshops at Bon Bida Spa & Gym**, 10 am– 1 pm. By Rafa Oliana, professional tango master. Call 785-0783 or 786-0378 to sign up. More page 3.

Saturday, July 30—Tango show at Sense, 7-11 pm.

Friday, August 12—Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park. Try tastes of Bonaire's restaurants. Sponsored by Bonaire Restaurant Association & TCB. Info: 717-8322, 717-8469

Thursday-Saturday, August 25-27—**Bat Cave Census/Mapping Workshop**. See page 6 for details

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 in 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 Marché first Saturday of the month**—
www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale"** every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989

• **Monthly flea market at "We Dare To Care" Playground, 1st Saturday of the month**, 2– 6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa

Jansen (Tel: 701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (Tel: 787-1475)

• **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 Koeke 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.

Thursdays

• **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, 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

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Rotary Supports Jong Bonaire Calendar 2012



Rotary Bonaire has once again provided financial support for the popular Jong Bonaire Kids Calendar project. President Pieter Groenendal presented a check to Jong Bonaire at the weekly Rotary meeting.

"The Jong Bonaire calendar is a major fundraising project for the youth center and we sincerely appreciate the support of Rotary Bonaire," said Rene Hakkenberg, voorzitter for Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire. "Each year the stichting must raise about 30% of its operating costs, so this project is an important one for us. This donation will cover most of the printing costs so that income from the calendar can go toward programs for the teens."

Teens on the calendar this year are: Nataly Janga, Rouel Domacassé, Thalia Boezem, Triviellaty Everts, Michaëlla van Vliet, Gemar Bernabela, Luigi Eybrecht, Zohailly Liberia, Danik Thielman, Leandra Janga, John Lombana, Desirée Soliana, Carielle Leonora, Quinlan de-Lannoy, Shurleyvienne Frans, Alvinson Soliana, Angelvis Ramos, Aimee Ayubi, Alyssa Soer, Catherine Anthony, Carina Chirino, Charissa Abdul, Gregory Pourier, Judmar Emerenciana, Juliano Clarenda, Nefi Statie, Percy Prudencia, Rayen Serous, Shamilla Viotty, Shamir Arridel, Suandy Pietersz and Sander Anthony.

The calendar makes a great Christmas gift for friends, family and customers and should be very popular with tourists and local residents since it deals with tradi-

tional Papiamentu proverbs giving the Dutch and English versions as well. The calendar is in the same 30X30 cm (12X12") format that as before and makes a lovely wall hanging. The calendars will be available in most local stores or they can be ordered in bulk by calling Jong Bonaire at 717-4303 ext. 12 or ext. 11 or by e-mail to jongbonaire@sunspotsbonaire.com.

This is the fourth calendar in the series and features 12 members of Jong Bonaire discovering a series of proverbs taken from the new book, "Proverbio." The calendars have been printed and are now en route to Bonaire. They will be distributed locally in early September. Shipment to Bonaire has been donated by Rocargo and AmCar.

Photography for the calendar was by Bart and Jacqueline Landheer who also photographed the first three editions. This was done via Fundashon Bon Kousa which also will publish the book of proverbs.

Jong Bonaire is the largest after-school program for teens in the Antilles with over 260 members. The program is now in its 12th year and more than 1,300 young Bonaireans have participated in the program since 1999. Funding for Jong Bonaire comes from the Island Government, RCN (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland*), AMFO and fundraisings like this calendar. Each year approximately 1/4 of the budget comes from the Bonairean community. ■ *Press release*

Letters to the Editor

DOGS ON BEACHES

Dear Editor:

It made me happy to see that some action has been taken to prohibit dogs on Bonaire's beaches. However, I do have some questions. What are the measures for enforcement?

What agency does the actual enforcement? Who to contact if you see violations? What are the consequences? Is the offender fined?

Rules and laws are nothing if not enforced. Is this law going in the direction of many others that are on the "books" here on Bonaire but for the most part ignored?

For example, since this law has been in place my Dutch neighbor continues to go to the beach not once but twice daily with her 3 dogs to swim and of course leave a "souvenir." Also, regularly on the weekends, I see 2 pickups driven way in near the Pekelmeer with 3 large dogs running in the protected flamingo area (often chasing flamingos) while their Dutch owners do nothing.

So I ask, WHAT VALUE IS THIS LAW WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT? Are there any real plans to get the dogs off Bonaire's Beaches?

Although I received no answers to my questions, I did receive many E-mails on this subject with a long litany of regular infractions on many of the beaches. The most disturbing information I received was news of the deliberate destruction of the signs at Sunset Beach.

So again I ask, enforcement? by whom? the consequences? or is this yet another Bonaire chapter of making "the big talk without taking the walk"?

Petri Hausmann



MISGUIDED ENVIRONMENTALISM?

Open letter: This is a paraphrase/translation of a letter sent to the press and government by Rosa- M.M. Vinck- Crestian, a Bonaire resident concerned about environmental protection laws.

Specifically:

- The protection for Bonaire's endangered parrot, the lora
- Restrictions about the cutting down of large trees and
- Prohibition on fishing specific species of fish and shellfish

She believes one should also consider how nature balances itself in first place. "Nature changes constantly. Animal and plant species disappear and are replaced by others. We must not forget humankind is at the centre of nature and requires protection too. There must be a balance."

According to her, it's common knowledge there are too many loras and that they eat lots of fruits and strip maize (*maishi*) fields bare. People on the island must buy imported fruit and grain which is not as nutritious and can harbor pathogens (the recent German food poisoning is a case in point).

She doesn't agree with the tree felling policy. "Why must individuals have to follow a bureaucratic procedure before they're allowed to fell a tree, whereas an entire row of trees along the airport runway was cut down?"

She understands fish species and conch require protection, but this hurts the fishermen as they have to feed their families. They should receive compensation, similar to what is done elsewhere. What happened to the plans the former government had been working on?

In conclusion, Vinck-Crestian asks why dogs are not allowed to run free at Lac, while businesses offer horseback rides in the sea in the same place? ■



BonQuiz #55 Answer

Q) Who is the gentleman this statue is dedicated to?
Which road is named after him?
In what year did Aruba earn it's *Status Aparte*?

-Gilberto François (Betico Croes)
Born Jan. 25,1938, died Nov. 26, 1986
-The road in front of the Stadium in Playa
- In the year 1986



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.

Sudoku Solution

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

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

Pets of the Week Bonaire's Top Walkers Are Off

Two best friends at the Bonaire Animal Shelter are five-month-olds, Eveline and Louie. These two smooth haired medium sized dogs have such great characters and are so happy to be involved with people. They're super friendly and smart too. Keeping these two clean is an easy job because they both just love water and are content to just sit in the tub, amusing the staff no end! They'd be perfect to adopt together. You may see them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989



Eveline and Louie

Shelter Alert: There is a big need right now for volunteers to come in and socialize with the animals. The cats love having people around to cuddle and play with them. The dogs would like to have someone to walk them on a leash, maybe teach them how to sit and just have fun. If you can spare a few hours, call the Shelter at 717-4989. You'd be doing a great service – and have a good time as well! The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm.

Don't forget every Saturday—the Shelter's Weekly Garage Sale Shop at Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar across from Brandaris Café. Volunteers staff the shop from 8 am to 5 pm every Saturday. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Ayo, Monique!

We say a sad goodbye to Monique De-genaar, one of the co-managers of the Shelter. After four years on the island working diligently at the Shelter Monique will be returning to Holland.

Monique has been a pillar of the Shelter, not only working there day after day, but she's brought endangered kittens and puppies home, trying to save their lives, feeding them every three hours, day and night! "That is hard," she confesses, "because after I raised them I wanted to keep them!" But her husband, heretofore understanding, put his foot down and said once the young ones could eat regular pet food they had to go back to the Shelter. We'll all really miss you Monique. And that includes your four-footed pals at the Shelter!

Taking over Monique's job will be Regina Schouten. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*



Monique and friend



Nazario Alberto (right) and Roy Martinus will again participate in the Vierdaagse Di Nijmegen – the famous Dutch Four-day walk held this year from July 19-22. Last week acting Governor Peter Silberie bid them farewell and good luck at Flamingo Airport. ■

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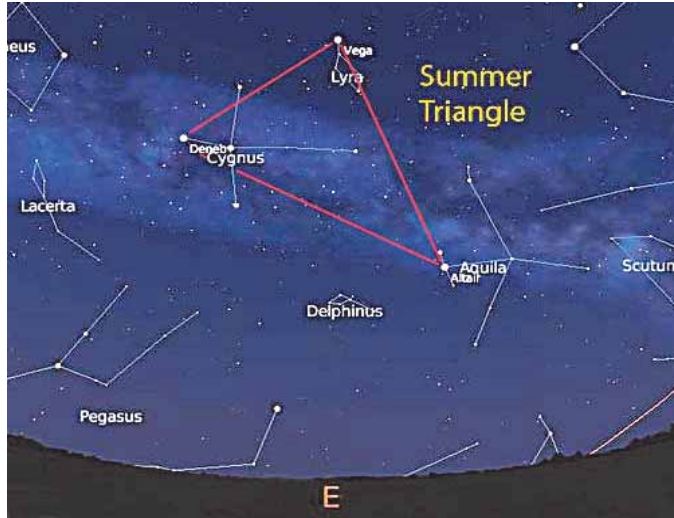
*to find it... just look up

The Summer Triangle Plus Mars and the Moon Pass Through the Horns of the Bull

Next week after it gets good and dark out the three wonderfully bright stars of the **Summer Triangle** ride high in the heavens. And although they look like they are all the same to the naked eye nothing could be farther from the truth.

Anytime during the last two weeks of July around 10 pm face east. Look way up high in the east, not far from overhead, where you'll see three bright stars, the brightest of which is the first point in the Summer Triangle, and the closest to overhead, **Vega, the fifth brightest star in the entire sky** shining at what astronomers call 0 magnitude which makes it roughly 2½ times brighter than the other two bright stars of the Summer Triangle, the first magnitude stars **Altair** and **Deneb**. And if you connect these three very bright stars with lines you'll see where the name Summer Triangle comes from.

Now each star is the brightest star of the constellation to which it belongs. Vega belongs to the constellation **Lyra the Harp**. Altair is the brightest star of **Aquila the Eagle** and Deneb is the bright tail star of **Cygnus the Swan**. We can learn a lot about how bright and how far away stars really are just looking at these three. You'd think that Vega, since it is the brightest, is the closest but it's not. Vega is so far away it takes its light 25 years to reach us. So why is Vega so much brighter? Simple. Vega is a much bigger and much hotter star than Altair. Compared to our almost one-million-mile-wide **Sun**, Vega is almost 2 and ½ times as wide, whereas Altair is only one and ⅓ times the width of our sun. So next time you're out with friends star gazing, if someone in your group is 17 years old you'll be able to say, "Hey, look at Altair. We're seeing the light tonight that left Altair when you were born." But what



about Deneb, which is only slightly dimmer than the closest of the three, Altair? Well it is a whopping 1,500 light years away, which again means we are now seeing the light that left it 1,500 years ago. So if Deneb is almost as bright as 17-light-year-away Altair it must be a much, much bigger and brighter star and it is.

In fact, as astronomer Fred Schaaf puts it, Deneb releases as much light in one night as our Sun does in a century. And if Deneb were as close as Vega it would be as bright as a crescent Moon. How bright is that? Well, go out the morning of July 25th and see for yourself. A beautiful waning crescent **Moon** will be in the eastern sky before dawn for you to enjoy. On the 25th it will be about half way between **Jupiter** and **Mars**. The next day, the 26th, a skinnier Moon will be just above **Aldebaran** the red eye of **Taurus the Bull**. And the next day Wednesday, the 27th, an even skinnier Moon will make a beautiful sight as it passes between the tips of the horns of Taurus and will be only 3 degrees away from the red planet Mars.

So get out next week and look for the three bright stars of the Summer Triangle: Vega, Altair and Deneb riding high in the east. And in the morning watch the waning crescent Moon pass between the horns of Taurus as the Moon approaches Mars.

■ *Dean Regas*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
July 19-30, 2011

Aries - March 21 - April 20 You will be misinterpreted if you get involved in other people's problems. Your partner's a little jumpy. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. You need to lie back and enjoy a little rest. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Taurus - April 21 - May 20 Don't make accusations unless you are completely sure that you are correct. Empty promises are evident. You can set your goals and make a beeline for your target. You would be best to work late in order to avoid such disharmony. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Gemini - May 22 - June 21 You can learn a great deal more if you listen rather than rant and rave. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. Talk to someone you trust if you need advice about broaching the subject. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Cancer - June 22 - July 22 Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. It's time to reevaluate your motives. You are best to avoid confrontations. Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Leo - July 23 - August 22 Business trips might prove unproductive. Children's needs could be more costly than you anticipated. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

Virgo - August 23 - September 22 Don't be too hard on yourself. Take time to help a friend who hasn't been feeling well. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

Libra - September 23 - October 22 Focus your efforts on your work. Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it comes to taking care of your financial situation. Come to your own conclusions rather

than taking the word of someone else. Financial gains can be made. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

Scorpio - October 23 - November 21 Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. Losses are likely if you have left your financial affairs in other people's hands. Think twice before eating spicy foods; you may have problems with your stomach. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 20 You will find your vitality is lowered. You may be likely to have difficulties with females. Try not to hurt your partner's feelings. The personal problems you may be having are interfering with your productivity. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Capricorn - December 21 - January 19 Take care of chores that have been hanging over your head. Business or pleasure trips will be knowledgeable as well as highly successful. Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. Don't be afraid to confront situations concerning loved ones in order to solve any problems that may exist. **Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.**

Aquarius - January 20 - February 18 They will jump at the chance to do something without you if it sounds like more fun. A little overtime may help you reduce the workload. Get involved in sports events that will benefit your physical appearance. You will be extremely sensual; take precautions and don't take any risks. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20 The great outdoors will allow you to teach youngsters some of the things you learned when growing up. Be cautious not to get involved in office chatter that will cause problems for others. You should be on the road. Look into career choices and courses being offered. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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