

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE April 27-May 11, 2012, Year 19, Issue 9
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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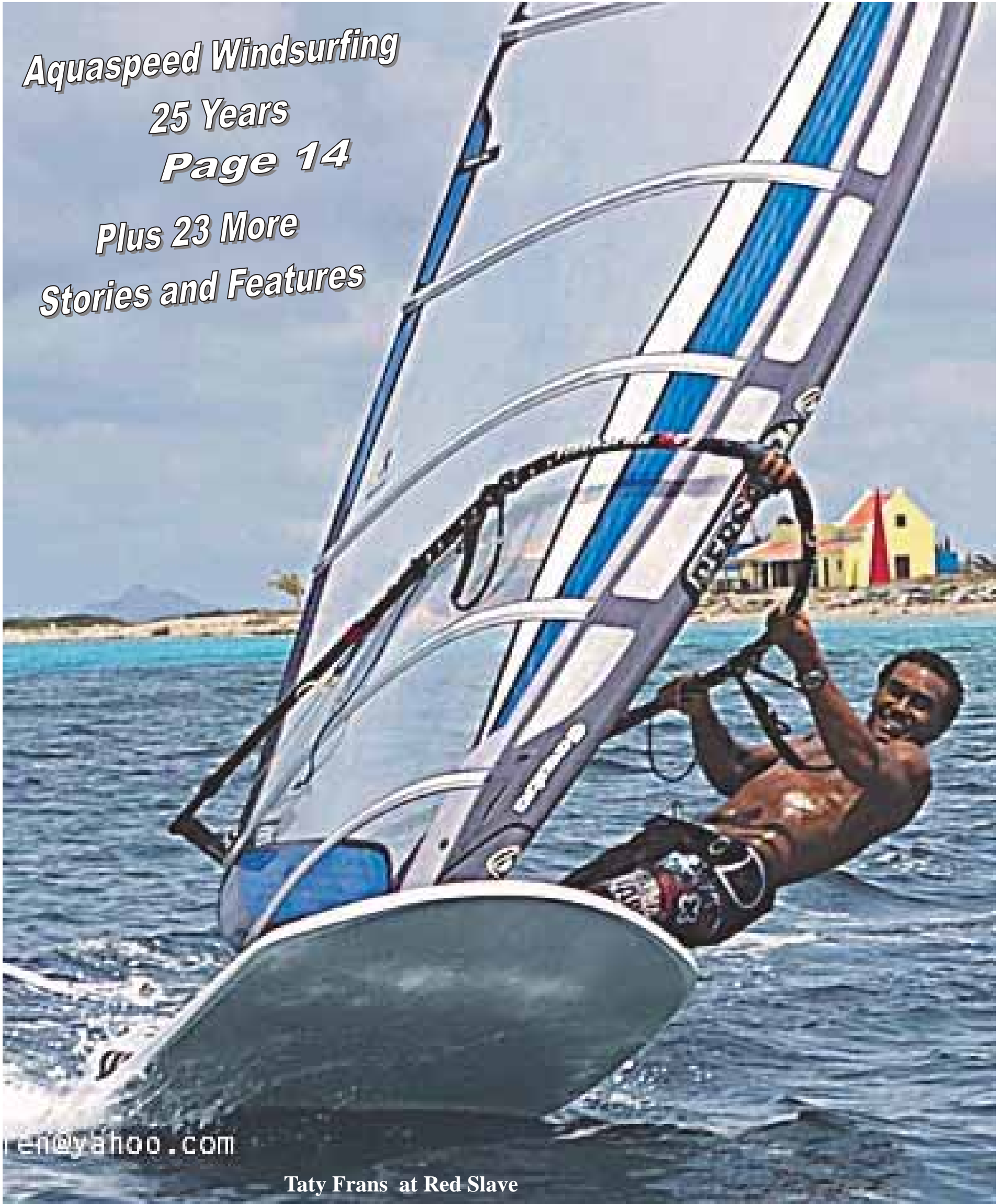
Aquaspeed Windsurfing

25 Years

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Stories and Features



reporter@yahoo.com

Taty Frans at Red Slave

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



Huub Marsman photo

It took last week's front page story in the Dutch language newspaper, *Antilleans Dagblad*, to get the attention of the Dutch Parliament—even though the news was two months old. The Dutch green left party GroenLinks announced it now wants measures to protect the fragile nature around Bonaire's Goto Lake (Gotomeer) against what it called "serious pollution."

Beginning on September 8, 2010, a three-day long burning fire at the adjacent BOPEC terminal caused the release of harmful chemical substances not only from the burning naphtha but also from the chemicals used to fight the blaze.

"Nearby residents fear that the Goto Lake is dead. Birds have disappeared and dead fish are drifting in the lake," said Member of Parliament Ineke van Gent of GroenLinks. Van Gent wants the Dutch Government to take action. According to Van Gent, the Dutch Government is blocking an investigation by the Dutch marine and nature institutes, Alterra and Imare, to analyze the extent of the fire and use of toxic chemicals. An earlier investigation by Dutch health authorities, the RIVM, didn't lead to alarming conclusions.

"This case smells and I fear for Bonaire. The exact extent of the pollution should become clear. We have to know the environmental and health risks and how this pollution can be dissolved. We are talking about nature that cannot be replaced," stated Van Gent in a press release. "If applicable, PdVSA should be held responsible for the damages to nature," she stated.

► At around 11 am on Saturday, April 14, Laura Dekker



(16), the world's youngest singlehanded circumnavigator, departed Bonaire on course for the San Blas (Kuna Yala) Islands and ultimately New Zealand. However, this time she wasn't alone. She sailed in company with Bruno Ottens, 18, a Bonaire resident of Dutch descent.

That doesn't mean she and Bruno, are romantically involved. As Laura wrote on her blog, "Today I said goodbye to all my friends I made on Bonaire, except for one who I became really good friends with and is also keen on the adventure of sailing to New Zealand. So tomorrow I leave Bonaire again, but with crew this time. He's not a sailor so I can teach him a lot. On the other hand, he's a good guitar player so I can probably learn a lot too. I'm really curious about how it will be to sail with crew. Not being alone on the boat and not having the silence around me anymore, but it's a nice new challenge!"

► The US Consulate General in Curacao and US Customs and Border Protection would like to remind eligible travelers of the **ESTA requirement. All Visa Waiver Program (VWP) travelers are required to obtain a travel authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)** prior to traveling to the US under the VWP. ESTA is accessible online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> for citizens of VWP countries, like The Netherlands, including Aruba, Curacao, and St. Maarten. The VWP allows visitors from participating countries to travel to the US for business or pleasure for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. There is a \$14 fee to obtain the travel authorization. Travel authorizations are generally valid for two (2) years OR

► Bonaire's government-owned waste management company, SELIBON NV, and Bon Recycling BV will be working together on collecting, storing, transporting and recycling waste products. They recently signed a declaration of intent with the Executive Council. According to SELIBON Director Rudsel Leito, from 10-10-10 new requirements demand collection and recycling of waste products. Director of Bon Recycling, Edison Rijna, also said he is very pleased that the agreement with SELIBON has now been signed. "Together we will make our island cleaner, to conform with the new regulation."

Waste may no longer be buried, but processed and converted to other materials. There's money in the waste processing industry. SELIBON will be working with a strategic partner that consists of local people. Among other things the agreement includes: separate collecting of paper and cardboard; collecting, transporting and processing of batteries; synthetic materials such as plastic and polystyrene foam packaging; processing of glass and tin; collecting wrecks and tires; collecting frying fat and processed oils and other kinds of waste. A list is given of the minimum standard of processing according to the type of waste. The agreement is for a period of five years.

until your passport expires, whichever comes first. Be sure to check the expiration date of your ESTA travel authorization before finalizing your travel plans

► On Wednesday, April 11, the police and members of their team conducted a **control check on vehicles**. A roadblock at the Kaya Gobernador N. Debro/ Kaya Amsterdam traffic circle focused on vehicle registration (license, insurance, taxes) and proper documentation for aliens. It was held between 06:15 and 08:30. There were about 75 vehicles checked, 17 police summonses were issued. This means that almost a quarter (23%) of the cars checked had problems. Four vehicles were transferred to the police impound because the documents were not in order. 175 people were also checked for valid documents. Of the 16 people taken to the Immigration office, 15 of them were students from the medical school and one was a Peruvian.

► On Friday, April 27, from 4 to 8 pm the Judicial Institute



At Last!

Dutch Caribbean (JICN) will organize a job fair on Plenchi Energia, next to restaurant El Mundo. The job fair is the start of a campaign to recruit new employees for the judicial institute

(prison) on Bonaire. The slogan is "*Bo Tin E Talento, Nos Tin E Trabou!* (You Have The Talent, We Have The Job!)" The Bonaire prison currently has 76 cells. Within a few years a new Judicial institute will be constructed at Plantashi Aruba which will offer space to 96 detainees. In anticipation of the new building the JICN is expanding at the current location. Therefore they are already recruiting a large number of new employees.

► THE HAGUE—Labor Party Member of the Dutch Parliament Ed Groot asked the Ministry for the reasons for the high infla-



RCN photo

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from page 2) **tion in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.** He wants Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Henk Kamp to take measures to prevent poverty as a result of the high consumer prices. Groot urged the Minister to act quickly after the investigation into the causes of the high inflation has been concluded to restore and maintain the purchasing power on the islands. Crown Representative William Stolte made a similar recommendation in his February report to Parliament. Groot asked Kamp when these measures would be taken, and if not, why not.

Daflaar, treasurer; Milena Rodriguez-Silberie, secretary; Alex Senchi, vice president; and Endsly Martines, second secretary.



RCN photo



Bon.Government photo

Goat meat gets inspected

► **Inflation on the islands of the Dutch Caribbean was substantially lower in the first quarter of 2012** than in the preceding quarters. Prices rose a lot less in this quarter than in the same quarter last year. Inflation was highest on St Eustatius (6.6%) and lowest on Bonaire (3.6%).

► **Bonaire's new consumer watchdog, Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó Boneriano (TpKB), is ready to accept consumer complaints.** The complaints can cover both consumer or other purchases. Complaints may be reported to the chairman, Eric Beeldsnijder, or the board members individually. However, no contact information was provided in the press releases. The new board consists of Eric Beeldsnijder, president; Yolanda

► **The Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, Edith Schippers, and Bonaire Commissioner of Health, Silvana Serafila** (above photo), **officially opened the Department of Hemodialysis on Bonaire on Friday, April 20.** This means the patients needing dialysis who had to travel to Curaçao on a regular basis can receive treatment on their home island.

► On the same day, April 20, Minister Schippers also laid the ceremonial first stone for the **construction of a psychiatric unit at the San Francisco hospital, another first for the island,**

► **SSS continues to be effective for its clients.** On April 11 at 3:30 in the morning, Special Security Services (SSS) received a report from a client residence in Sa-

badeco that a thief was trying to break in. An SSS patrol received the report and arrived at the house to stop the break-in. They called the police who arrived quickly. The thief escaped through the garden and disappeared into the *mondi*.....

► **After its renovation Bonaire's abattoir on Lagoen Road is again open for the slaughtering and inspection of animals** destined for commercial sale and consumption, according to LVV chief, Raymond "Ròki" Emers and *Keurmester* (Food Inspector) Kenneth Scherptong. It may be obvious but abattoir services are required to ensure public health. Bonaire maintains one of the highest health and hygiene standards in
(Continued on page 20)



IT SHOULD BE THE LAW!

A few weeks ago, a friend received a ticket for using the sidewalk to park. They police are cracking down on these dangerous parkers whose deeds threaten our peace and tranquility. Never mind the hot-rodders on quads doing doughnuts outside local businesses, driving proprietors nuts while uniformed officers look on from a short distance. Apparently, these rough riders get a pass while the criminal parkers get fined. To make matters worse, it has been announced that if you fail to pay your fine, you will be taken to jail until you come up with the cash. Since the jail has no space, that should make an interesting problem for government...let a drug dealer out with an electronic ankle bracelet and slap the irons on Mr. John Q. Scofflaw.

Sadly and seriously, we have two laws that must be enacted and enforced immediately. They are the helmet requirement and the seatbelt laws! Seat belts are a no brainer since all cars have them, at least when they are new. Of course they are over looked, sat on, pushed down into the crevice where the seat and back cushions meet, but if it becomes a habit, you don't think twice about using them.

Helmets on the other hand are a bit trickier. Not every bike or scooter/motorcycle is sold or rented with protective headgear! The recent rash of head injuries that have occurred summarizes the need to wear head protection.

Should the police start to give out warnings for non-compliance? You bet they should! At the same time they should check that seatbelts are being used. By letting the public know the law is imminent and will be enforced the public will be warned that they will face fines in the future.

Parents, teachers and responsible citizens: it is your duty to pressure government to act as soon as possible. Along with the law to ban the use of dark film on car windows it would be a lifesaving move. There is no logical reason not to pass these laws. Everyone! Write a letter to government urging them to act before we lose more youth to injuries that could have been minimized if helmets or seat belts were used! ■

Mike Gaynor

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Born on Bonaire... April 13th, 1944 - Hermenegilda 'Gilda' Winklaar

“Because of my long name, my mother called me Ida and at school the sister told me, ‘Your name is too long, I will call you Gilda.’ I was one of 13 children; two died when they were just a couple of months old, so my parents stayed with 11. Then my grandmother, Elyza Manuela, decided she wanted one child from each of her daughters, so my mother sent me, my older brother and two younger brothers to live with her. My grandmother called us *mi muchanan*, ‘my children.’ My grandfather, Leon Manuela, worked at kunuku Bakuna, close to Lac, but my grandmother lived in Antriol Pariba, now the area of ‘Mexico.’

She had a lot of land, just like a kunuku. The doctor had told her not to work anymore. Actually he meant she shouldn't work at the kunuku - harvesting the aloe, carrying water on her head - really heavy work that had caused her back problems. Well, she took it literally and she refused to lift a finger. She sat in her chair the whole day long and told us and two other cousins what we should do. As I was the only girl I had to cook, sweep and wash the clothes. And you know, I was really little. I had to stand on a bench to reach the stove and stir the food in the pots! Ay Dios, I've had a tough time! Then one of my aunts wrote my mom a note, telling her that she should take me back as my grandmother had become a bit funny, and so I went back to my mom when I was four.

My father was a fisherman; when he

was young he owned two big boats and he and his friends used to go far out to catch the fish, but when he got older he sold the two boats and just kept a small one.

My mom was at home; she sewed for us, so when I grew older I got a taste for it. When I was 10 I said, ‘I'm going to sew something for myself!’ There was a shop in town called *Shon Maiku* where I went to buy the material. My father had given me three guilders and I bought three yards. It was yellow with big white dots. I cut the material for a dress; the skirt was full, but the bodice I made tight. As there were no zippers in those days, I had to pull it over my head. It was quite tight but loose around my waist so I sewed a belt into the material on each side so then I could tie it at the back. The dress had wide, leg-of-mutton sleeves with a ribbon. The neckline was square and below it I made two rows of three buttonholes, through which I pulled a white ribbon, just like a corset. That was

“...when my dress was shown the audience fell completely silent. Then you heard ahhmmm... Nobody would ever have guessed that dress was made out of paper!!”

my first dress and everybody loved it! When I went to mass they all asked me, ‘Did your mother sew that dress?’ And I answered ‘No, I made it myself!’ ‘Well,

that's impossible!’ the people said. I got so many compliments!

Next I went through my mother's old



Gilda with one of the photos the late Anton Heitkonig made of her in a dress she made herself

clothes and I made a pair of shorts, like hot pants, and a brassiere, and I went swimming in my new bikini because at that time we lived at Playa Lechi.

My father had his house where Elegancia di Caribe is now. Every Sunday when I walked to church, I would pass by Mr. Heitkönig's house and he would call me, ‘Come, come, come! I'll take your picture!’ He had his business there, with all kinds of gold things and also he sold

(Continued on page 5)




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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

watches, but most of all he was a very good photographer and the photos he made of me in my self-made clothes were neat and elegant.

After the sixth grade of elementary school there was no continuation of school on the island so I went home and my mom sent me to my aunt who was sewing for other people. I went there every day. We lived again in Antriol Pariba and my aunt's house was close by. She had a lot of work and several sewing machines. After a few days she told me, 'Make that dress for me! You can do it!' I had to cut the material – she had five different models of dresses – and I had to sew it too. For my salary I would get a dress now and then.

When I was 15 a young man showed up on my mother's doorstep and asked if he could marry me. I didn't want to and I thought he was quite fresh because I was too young and I wasn't thinking about those things. However, when I was 17 I did accept his proposal and we got married when I was 18. His name was Ramon Engelhardt, and we had seven children; four girls and three boys. My husband died when he was 57. And I now have 17 grandchildren."

Gilda is a good story teller and she has a great memory. She is a fashionable lady and she has been Bonaire's first real clothing designer, but she's also a very warm person. I'm being totally spoiled with lots of delicious homemade snacks.

"When my children were little," Gilda says, "I bought a sewing machine and

starting making clothes for people, and by the time my eldest daughter was 12 I had 150 clients. I even had my own label, 'Gilda's Fashion, made for you on Bonaire.' It took a lot of planning because I would cut the materials from 6 pm until midnight, then after the children went to school in the morning I would start sewing.

When Barbie dolls showed up on Bonaire, people started organizing fashion shows. They would come to my house, asking, 'Gilda, can you make my Barbie an outfit? I'm sure she's going to win when you do it!' But I also designed and sewed many, many dresses for the 'Miss'

elections, holy communions, shows and other events. Once a girl who was going to participate in a song contest came to my house and said, 'If I don't sing right, at least I will be wearing the most beautiful dress!' I also was the winner of the contest called *Bisti di Krèpe* in 1989. We made dresses out of paper, and when my dress was shown the audience fell completely silent. Then you heard ahhhmmmm.... Nobody would ever have guessed that dress was made out of paper!

When I was 42 I put on a big fashion show for children in what used to be the Den Laman Restaurant. We built the whole stage and gathered all the kids in the family to model. I designed 40 pieces of clothing. Well, the restaurant was loaded with people that night and I sold every single piece and I got a lot of orders

in.

For 12 years now I've lived in Tera Kora. Before I got my old age pension I would sew, but also I



The coveted Gilda label



Gilda at home

sold lottery tickets, and once a month I cooked 40 meals to sell.

After I got my pension I took out a loan and fixed up the house I have next door to rent out. And as my knees are very bad I cannot sit in a 'flat' car, so I had to buy this SUV. I don't work much anymore. Sometimes I do small repairs, and now and then I make a dress for someone. That's all. I don't want *hopi plaka* (lots of money). I want to live in tranquility. I feel sad because I live alone and I don't like it. The children have lives of their own and they are always busy. I cannot go to Playa as it's impossible to park there and I cannot walk those distances with these knees. When I cannot sleep I work out on my home trainer and make many miles in the middle of the night! Every Thursday I go the 60+ club where we play dominos or

cards, we take bus trips, we do all kinds of stuff and sometimes someone comes to give a lecture on health issues. I go on the internet and I am on Facebook. I sew a bit and the day is gone before you know it, but I would like to find a companion as it isn't fun to live alone. As far as Bonaire is considered – I don't know how to put it into words – I don't know where we are going and if we are okay here. I feel anxious... I want to see Bonaire tranquil *pa nos* (for us) – because it was never like this. When will they ever finish all these things and projects? In 10 years? That's not good for me! I want to enjoy my last years!" ■



Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

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Dare To Care Dares To Ask



Governor Lydia Emerencia, Vicky Bissessar and Park Caretaker Alex with the request documents.

Last week a subsidy request was presented to the island governor in behalf of the We Dare To Care Park. The Park was built 6 ½ years ago for the benefit of Bonaire's children and their families.

The Park caters to all ages and needs – from elderly to the very young as well as the disabled members of our society. It is a true social plus for the island.

Until now the Park has survived because of volunteers, donations and fund raising. But these measures are no longer sufficient to keep it going. An entrance fee was imposed, but that is a burden for most of the less affluent members of the island.

Over 1,000 people signed a petition in support of the subsidy request. We hoped it is granted soon. ■G.D.

Three Awards To BTV



Corine Gerharts, center, flanked by Caribbean Princess personnel (left) and Sue and Amado Felix of Achie Tours

On April 12, the cruise ship *Caribbean Princess* was in port and Bonaire Tours & Vacations (BTV) was invited on board to receive three Princess C.R.U.I.S.E. awards. Coincidentally, this day also marked the 12th anniversary of BTV. April 12, 2012 – 12th anniversary, call it 12-12-12?

Below is a synopsis of the announcement made by Princess Cruises to BTV:

“We were not able to hold the official 2008-09 Princess C.R.U.I.S.E. Award ceremonies, therefore, we are combining the 2008-09 & the 2010-11 ceremonies.

It is my pleasure to inform you that Bonaire Tours & Vacations has been awarded **three Princess C.R.U.I.S.E. Best Bonaire Tour of the Season Awards**

Two-Stop Snorkeling on the *Seacow*

"Best Bonaire Tour of the Season" (low volume tour) 2010/11

"Best Tour of the Season" (low volume tour) 2008/09

“Discover Bonaire, Island Tour” Best Bonaire Tour of the Season" (high volume tour) 2008-09

These tours consistently received high ratings, positive passenger comments and were noted as an excellent value.” ■Press release



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To find out more about the progress of the survey, "What's Bonaire Nature Worth?" I had a meeting with Ms Lara Chirino, director of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), and Ms Esther Wolfs, project manager and director of Wolfs Kater International Consultancy Services B.V. (WKICS), at the TCB office.

Esther explained that her first project, "What's Bonaire's Nature Worth?" will cover the nature project research which evaluated the ecosystem services such as the ability to dive and see a beautiful coral reef while being on Bonaire. "It is supposed to give us more insight on how much the nature contributes to the Bonairean economy," Esther said. Her current project, "What's Bonaire's Cruise Tourism Worth?" will be an important section of Bonaire Tourism.

"The TCB and RCN," Lara said, "needed some answers to this question and with the help of Esther and her company we are currently working to get a clear overview of what is actually going on regarding cruise tourism on Bonaire so that we will be able to make prudent, justifiable long-term decisions about Bonaire tourism."

For a proper scientific approach Esther receives help from an associate professor, Pieter van Beukering, of the Free University of Amsterdam (*Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam*). Esther explained, "The Cruise Tourism project is composed of three sections: a tourist exit survey, an evaluation of the impact of the cruise ships on the marine environment and a more in-depth vision of the tourism industry."

The tourist exit survey is destined for

both cruise tourists and stay-over ones. "It is a short survey," Esther said, "asking them how they have experienced Bonaire. Afterwards, an email invitation will be sent to them asking about their activities and spending behavior while on the island as well as their view of Bonaire's nature. We would like to investigate the interaction between the stay-over tourists and the cruise ones. A key question to be answered is, are cruise tourists keeping the stay-over ones from returning to Bonaire or do they come back as stay-over tourists in order to explore Bonaire more in detail?"

With the help of a professor from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, Esther plans to report about the effects of the cruise ships on the marine environment, if any. The third part of Esther's research is to measure and understand the tourism industry and its attitude towards the cruise and stay-over tourists.

Both agreed, "We would like our investigations to give us a clear view of the tourists' behavior. *Meten is weten* (measuring is knowing) is the tagline of this project."



Lara Chirino and Esther Wolf on the sea - front at Town Pier

Lara added, "What we would like to obtain is a better insight into what is actually happening. By collecting data, we hope to be able to provide the decision makers with facts and figures instead of unsustainable opinions." Esther added, "The objective and the most important thing for us is being able to give the decision makers the tools to develop Bonaire in a long lasting sustainable way. We would like to deliver a valuable contribution to the development of Bonaire. And as we all know, tourism is a very important pillar and a great source of income for Bonaire."

They both finished by saying, "We would

Picture Yourself Up A Tree With The Reporter In Bonaire, CN

Bonaire resident, Ella van Oostrom, sent us this photo of 2.05 m tall Berry van Donseelaar who was visiting her on Bonaire. However, he still needs a ladder to cut the coconuts from this tree in Lagoen Hill. Luckily, his girlfriend, Eva Sira (also visiting), and her little sister, Julia Sira, (living on Bonaire), prevented him from falling... especially because he needs his hands to hold *The Reporter*. ■



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like to present TCB, the national and local governmental bodies with all the collected data, without any prejudice and with no exceptions. So, either bad or good, we will give a transparent balance of the current situation regarding the cruise tourism on Bonaire!"

I, personally, cannot wait to see the outcome of this survey. I think it is relatively well composed, although after this research, I would love to see another one focused on the stay-over tourists only. Furthermore, I'm wondering if Bonaire can accommodate all these tourists. I mean,

when there is a cruise ship in town, you cannot get a table at lunch time downtown! Perhaps more restaurants should open downtown in order to satisfy all the clients, local and tourists.

All I can say is please be nice to the tourists, because no matter how you see it, they are without a doubt a great contribution to the economy of Bonaire. ■

Photo & story by Rose Feng



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10th MCB International Tennis Open



Steve Littman speaks at the opening. L to R: James Kroon, Evert Piar, Elisabeth Vos.

More than 80 participants from six different countries and islands were on Bonaire for the 10th edition of the "MCB International Tennis Open 2012" from April 5-9. Players from Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela, the US, The Netherlands and Bonaire all got on the courts. This annual tournament, held for the first time in Bonaire in 2003, has grown from a three-day event with 35 participants to what now has become the biggest tournament in the region. Tournament Director, Elisabeth Vos, used two locations to get more than 200 matches finished in the five days of play: at the Harbour Village Tennis Center and at Eddy's. Matches were in 16 categories: Men's and Ladies, levels A, B, B50+, C, C50+, C2. The strongest Junior players also participated, in the A and B categories. The C categories were all 18+.



Players from all three ABC Islands joined for this photo

A big "thank you" goes to the main sponsors: MCB Bonaire, Littman's Jewelers and the Harbour Village Beach Club and to "Friends of the tournament" including Best Brands Bonaire, Eddy's, Bonaire Security Force, Selibon, Tennisschool Sport Bonaire and Harbour Village Tennis Center. Also a very big "thank you" goes to the Tournament Crew 2012: Marijn van Erp, Kaming Yan, Chris Abdul, Kaile and Yannick Finies and many volunteers who helped during the preparation phase with the landscaping around the Harbour Village Tennis Center.

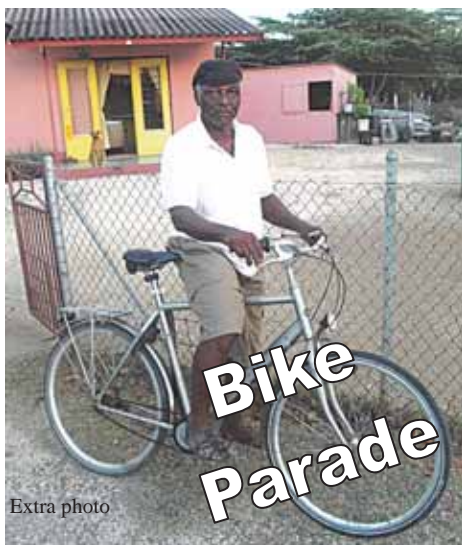
The Food and Beverage team led by Julian and Joyce Finies did a tremendous job providing lunch and dinner to partici-

LDB-Runner-up Kaile in action



pants, family, friends and spectators of the tournament. The award ceremony, held on Monday April 9, was split in two due to Aruba and Curacao players having to leave early to catch their flights. All winners and runners up received trophies sponsored by MCB Bonaire. The finalists of the Men's Single A (highest men category) and also of the Ladies Doubles B (highest ladies category) also received gift certificates from Littman Jewelers. Gino Meeuwssen, winner of the Men's Single A 2012 title received the "Arthur Domacasse Trophy" from Gerda Domacasse.

The 11th MCB International will be held from March 28 through April 1st, 2013. ■ Story & photos by Elisabeth Vos



Bike Parade

Extra photo

The bicycle parade in this year's *Dia di Rincon* (Rincon Day) celebration is dedicated to Nemensio (Bubu) Beaumont (pictured). It is the ninth consecutive year for the event which takes place the day after Rincon Day, Tuesday, May 1. Nemensio is a highly motivated rider. Born on October 31, 1941, he was the youngest of a large family. He is knowledgeable of the nature of the kunuku and mondi. As a youngster he would walk into Washington Park, but later travelled by bicycle. Sign up for the bicycle parade at the Rincon Sentro di Barrio on May 1 after 2 in the afternoon. The parade itself begins at 5 pm. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. ■ Press release/G.D.

Carniceria Latino



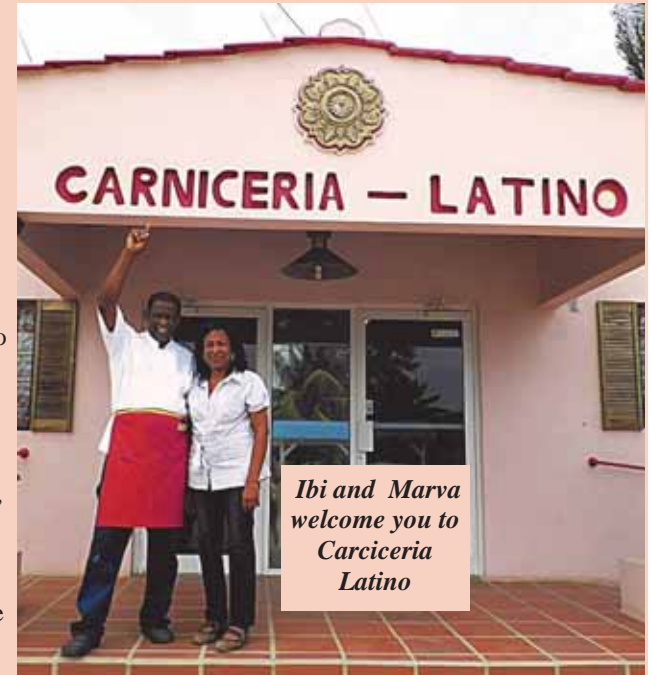
Lisandra and Latinova in front of the famous Carniceria BBQ apparatus

There were a few people shopping when I walked in for my interview with Mr B. Hubert "Ibi" Emerenciana, owner of Carniceria Latino. It seemed that their grilled chicken and spareribs are well known on Bonaire; outside there was quite a line waiting to purchase fresh charcoal grilled chicken.

In 1987 Carniceria Latino opened, selling only meat: beef, chicken, pork, sheep and goat. One year later, Hubert expanded it, installing a counter and selling other products like canned goods, local fruits and vegetables and some basic drugstore articles. Hubert said: "Two years later we started to import complete containers of meat in order to supply all the hotels and many restaurants on Bonaire with the help of only eight employees!" He continued, "Currently, Carniceria Latino offers fresh local meat (all kinds), fruits and vegetables and from the freezers: fish, meat and vegetables. We also have a wide range of canned foods. Actually, Carniceria Latino has become a small supermarket nowadays, kind of a mini-market with all the basic home cleaning and personal care products."

Most locals know that every Saturday since 1996 there are freshly charcoal grilled chicken and ribs being sold next to Carniceria Latino, at their parking site. "It started out when we had to get rid of the leftover chicken that did not get sold out. We used to broil that chicken at the family farm. So we started to grill some chicken on Saturday at the store. But before we knew it, we were short on chicken; we didn't have enough chicken for the Saturday grill. We had to start importing chicken on a regular basis from Curacao in order to meet the demand every Saturday."

And here is how the Latino Ice adventure began: In order to keep the chicken fresh and at the right cooling temperature, they needed to purchase an ice machine and cooler. Following the tragedy that took place in June 2000 of the cold-blooded murder of the Pleumeekers couple, owners of the only ice cube manufacturing/supply business on Bonaire, the whole island of Bonaire was desperately



Ibi and Marva welcome you to Carniceria Latino



Swinda, Marva and Ibi inside the spotless, gleaming market

in need of ice cubes. Since it is such a small island, people on Bonaire knew that Hubert had an ice machine and started approaching him to sell them ice for their businesses.

Hubert: "As a businessman myself, I felt and understood the necessity of the demand, so I helped them out. This investment has turned out to be one of our best operating businesses today."

As the population of Bonaire gets larger and the demand keeps growing, Hubert plans to modernize the Latino Grill and Ice businesses in order to meet the growing demand of its increasing number of customers. He also needs to expand these businesses in order to serve his clients better and to make sure not a single client is being left out, or in this case, sold out. ■ Story & photos by Rose Feng



Bonaire's First Heart Week

THE HEART FOUNDATION SAYS: 'PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO DIE OF A HEART ATTACK'

On Monday, April 16th, the Heart Foundation organized the first Heart Week on Bonaire. At the hospital they were represented with a stand where people could get flyers in Dutch and Papiamentu about how to act when you witness someone having a heart attack and the various ways of preventing heart and vascular disease.

CPR was demonstrated by instructor Annemiek Heutinck as she performed chest compressions, mouth to mouth resuscitation and demonstrated the use of a defibrillator – an AED machine on a dummy, which was donated to the Heart Foundation by Jake Richter.

Fact is that 10% of Bonaire's inhabitants suffer from heart and vascular disease and in Hol-



Instructor Annemiek Heutinck demonstrates at the hospital how to perform CPR and the use of the AED device. Dummy was donated by Jake Richter.



From l to r., CPR instructor Annemiek Heutinck; Chairman of the Heart for Bonaire Foundation Rob van Dongen; representative of the Dutch Heart Foundation Mirjam Versteeg; and, 2nd secretary of the Heart for Bonaire Foundation Margreth Kloos

land and the US it is the number one cause of death amongst women.

At the end of 2010 Rob van Dongen, Selly Gromotka-Pourier and Theo Knevel founded the Heart for Bonaire Foundation. And by doing so they aimed to cover two issues: to inform the public about how to prevent heart and vascular disease, and secondly, to make Bonaire heart-safe.

Mr. van Dongen explains: "The moment someone suffers from cardiac arrest, time is crucial. The circulation needs to be restored within six minutes because the brain cannot do without oxygen longer than six minutes. So, if a person drops to the ground, the best scenario would be if there is someone around who knows how to perform CPR and who knows how to use an AED machine.

Therefore we want as many employees of private companies and the government, as well as semi-government institutions, including the police and the fire fighters,

trained in CPR and the use of the AED.

The Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and is able to treat them through defibrillation which stops arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

At the moment there are about 14 machines on the island and we're striving for several hundred machines, so that anywhere on Bonaire, in case of a cardiac arrest, help will be available within six minutes.

Fundashon Mariadal is going to give the CPR courses and we will organize everything that comes with it, including the certification by which we declare a company 'heart-safe' – which is a guarantee not only for its clientele but also for its own employees. There are five instructors available and the course will take no longer than

two times three hours. Companies pay \$125 per person for their employees to be trained and the costs of an AED device are about \$1500. So far we have 50 people waiting to start the course!

We are looking for companies who are interested in buying an AED machine and having their employees take the course. And we're also looking for volunteers to collect money. And every dollar that comes in will be well spent because there is going to be a committee which will supervise the way the money is spent.

Let me introduce you to Mirjam Versteeg," Rob says. "She is the representative of the Dutch Heart Foundation and she came here not only with a donation of \$5,000 but also to share our experiences."

"For the last two years," Mirjam explains, "Rob and I have been in close contact as Rob comes to Holland on a regular basis. The Dutch Heart Foundation plays an advising and informative

roll. We share our Dutch experience, but we are also conscious of the fact that some things on Bonaire function in a different way. In Holland we have about 60,000 people going out on the streets to collect money during Heart Week and we're very happy that there are many enthusiastic volunteers on Bonaire as well. It is great to be here and to see that things are the same but also different and to give the goals an extra push. In Holland I am responsible for our volunteers, so that's why I came here to help and advise the local volunteers.


And... let me tell you something. All this makes sense, because if you act right, somebody else doesn't have to die of a heart attack. It's as simple as that."

I know Mirjam is right because 27 years ago I gave CPR to someone who suffered from a cardiac arrest. He later became the father of my child. I'd never had taken a course; I'd seen it on TV. It worked. He's still alive. ■

Greta Kooistra


Governing Board of the Heart for Bonaire Foundation


- Rob van Dongen, chairman (dentist)
- Selly Gromotka-Pourier, secretary (doctor)
- Margreth Kloos, 2nd secretary
- Eric van de Keuken, treasurer (adm. office Brandaris)
- Robert Smaal, vice chairman (physiotherapist)
- Marugia Janga, member (health science graduate)
- Arjan van den Bos, member (cardiologist)
- Annemiek Heutinck (instructor)



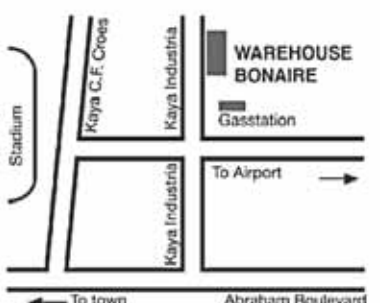
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Toyo Is Not Amelia Earhart

Unlike Amelia Earhart who never resumed her radio transmissions, Toyo the loggerhead sea turtle was finally located following seven months of no signals from her transmitter. The last satellite transmission of Toyo's location was received September 3, 2011. Last week, nearly seven months later, Toyo's transmitter sent 13 signals confirming her home foraging grounds of Los Roques, Venezuela.

You'll remember Toyo as the turtle was already traveling from her breeding and nesting grounds when she stopped by Playa Chikitu of Washington Slagbaai National Park to lay a final nest in the early hours of August 1, 2011. Our team then tracked her to several Venezuelan islands: Las Aves, La Tortuga, La Blanquilla and Los Roques in a looping migration. Unfortunately Toyo's transmitter signal gave out after 31 days and 1,200 kilometers of travel, placing her just southwest of Los Roques. At that time we could not confirm Toyo's home foraging ground.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) now can confirm Los Roques as Toyo's home foraging grounds. This archipelago, only 150 km east of Bonaire, is very important for our sea turtles. In fact, we have now tracked all three species of Bonaire-

photo Marlene Robinson



Bruce, Mabel and Funchi fit a loggerhead with a transmitter.

nesting sea turtles (green, loggerhead and hawksbill) back to these rich foraging grounds. The island chain is a national protected area of Venezuela, although some turtle harvesting still occurs there.

Toyo's latest movements were captured with 13 signals over three days in the shallow waters surrounding the Los Roques island chain.

Toyo's name is a combination of "Ton" and "Hayo," in honor of Quartermaster Ton Akkerman and Policy Advisor Hayo Haanstra of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I). EL&I sponsored the costs of this satellite transmitter to support STCB's ongoing sea turtle satellite tracking program. For more frequent updates on the 2012 migration season, please visit The STCB Facebook page or follow the turtles live on the tracking website. ■

STCB press release

Junior Rangers Graduate



Junior Rangers Graduate: Eliomar From (14), Commissioner James Kroon, Marvin Molina (15), Xaviera Bernabela (14), Nijandrew Pourier (15) and Gorgino Tokaay (14)

The current group of five Junior Rangers-in-training (see story in the April 13 edition of *The Reporter*, pg. 8) have graduated and were presented their certificates by Commissioner James Kroon and STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom in a ceremony at Captain Don's Habitat. The program is supported by many Bonaire nature preservation foundations and businesses including CIEE, Sea Turtle Conservation, Captain Don's Habitat, Dive Friends Bonaire, Buddy Dive, Divi Flamingo, The Mangrove Center, Bonphoto, and Woodwind. ■ Press release

Felis Dia di Rincon



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Hemisphere Visits Bonaire



Hemisphere dwarfs a 40-foot sailboat off the coast of Klein Bonaire.

I first saw the mega-catamaran arrive off the eastern shore of Klein Bonaire last week. The boat appeared enormous, perhaps 80 to 100 feet long. But chalk up that miscalculation to distance, dark blue hulls and appropriately proportioned parts. By the time the vessel docked at Harbour Village Marina, I realized that I had vastly underestimated its size.

The boat in question is called *Hemisphere*. It is the largest catamaran in the world. "We're just under the magical 500 (tons)," explains Captain Gavin Bladen, "which keeps a lot of regulation requirements away from us. *Douce France*, the next biggest cat in the world (at 137-feet) is only 300 gross tons. If we tied her along side, her coach roof would be at our deck level, and her deck half way up our hull side."

Apparently in the world of mega-sailboats size does matter. *Hemisphere* is 145-feet

long, 54-feet wide and is built from 73 tons of aluminum. But Bladen is not boastful. Rather, the understated English captain is simply proud of the amazing super yacht that he gets to sail around the globe. He spent seven years as project director during the design, development and building of the super cat. The owner of *Hemisphere* is an American businessman who chooses to remain anonymous. "This is his first boat," remarks Bladen. "He was coming up to retirement and only wanted to do one boat. We could have done a smaller boat and learned what we wanted and then build the boat of our dreams, or just do the boat of our dreams and be done in one hit."

They chose the latter and the 'one and done' choice was launched in August 2011 from the Pendennis shipyards in southwest England. *Hemisphere* immediately sailed south to the Mediterranean and turned heads



Captain Gavin Bladen at the helm in Harbour Village Marina.

in every port. After a trans-Atlantic voyage, she is spending this spring cruising the Caribbean. "The owner has done a lot of the Caribbean from Trinidad north," continues Captain Bladen. "So I recommended to sail to Los Roques (Venezuelan islands 125 miles east) and that we cruise to Bonaire to do diving. Bonaire's a fantastic location. I've heard about it for 20 years. It lives up to its reputation. The diving's excellent—crystal clear water, the coral is in fantastic condition where we've dived, and the fish

life is very good. It is protected. It's good to see that."

The 40-something captain leads me to the port hull stern and down a series of wide, elegant teak steps. We enter a room that serves as the yacht's dive center. There are 12 tanks each with their dedicated filling station—your choice of Nitrox or regular air. This reflects the owner's passion for exploring the world's water wonders. Bladen describes a typical day. "We do a dive before breakfast. We come back for breakfast and do a dive or three afterwards. This vessel is a heavy dive boat."

Fins, buoyancy vests, regulators, kayaks, water skis, wake boards and paddle boards fill the rest of the space. There is a teak-decked, 27-foot Scorpion inflatable tender with a 315-horsepower, inboard Yamaha that can whisk you away to the dive site of your choice. Not satisfied? Choose the 54-foot F&S custom sport boat for game fishing, diving or guest excursions. The craft follows *Hemisphere* wherever she sails. The catamaran is crewed by a team of 10 of whom two are responsible for the 54-footer.

If you are contemplating a charter, you will need more than your American Express card. The yacht rents for \$250,000 per week for up to 12 guests. That is exclusive of food, drink and fuel needed for the *Hemisphere's* two, 12-cylinder, 495-horsepower Caterpillar diesel engines. The chef on board will cater to your every culinary need. "Say that your child wants Coco Puffs for breakfast," proposes Bladen. "We will make sure that cereal is on board even if we have to fly it in." The attention to personal needs continues. Three thousand movies are

(Continued on page 13)

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Medical Referrals

English-speaking island residents may want to cut out and save

In the BES Islands very broad medical insurance is provided by the Dutch Government to all legal residents. The first step is for the insured to go to the general practitioner. If the general practitioner finds that the patient requires specialist care, the patient is referred to the specialist. The general practitioner gives the patient a referral letter for the specialist. The general practitioner of the insured makes the appointment. In the event the specialist is not on Bonaire the insured will be referred to Curacao, Aruba or Colombia.



The cost of BES Health Insurance is paid by the worker, work provider and Dutch Government

Procedure during a medical referral
Before a medical referral can occur a procedure should be followed. All questions pertaining to medical referrals are first evaluated by the indication committee. When an insured is referred by the general practitioner (GP) to a specialist outside Bonaire and this specialist does not have a contract with ZVK (government health insurance), then the head of ZVK must grant consent. In order to obtain permission the GP needs to complete the so-called "consent form" and send this to ZVK. On this form the GP should explain why the patient must go to a non-contracted specialist. This form goes to the medical assistant of the ZVK who handles the request for permission with all discretion. The worker will have the request form evaluated by the indication committee on the medical necessity. The indication committee comprises three doctors. They advise the head on the basis of the medical aspects of the referral. This no longer checks the medical data, but only if the referral is included in the package of the insured. All parties who deal with the consent have the obligation of secrecy. The moment it is decided whether or not the permission will be granted the GP will be notified. In the event the permission is granted the procedure for medical referral follows.

Medical referral

For medical referrals the GP completes a "request medical referral form" and forwards this form to the ZVK. On this form will be listed:

- Full name and ID of the patient

- The specialist to whom the insured is referred and the permission number if applicable
- The date and time of the appointment, so that the ZVK can book a ticket and possibly a hotel for the insured
- The banking details of the insured, so that ZVK can deposit the daily allowance in his or her bank account.

The insured can, upon presentation of passport, collect their ticket three days in advance at the travel agency or the airline.

Forms to take along:

The insured takes the following forms along to the specialist outside Bonaire:

- Referral letter from the GP (this is a letter wherein the GP communicates with the specialist about the diagnosis of the patient. This letter does not come into the hands of the ZVK)
- Guarantee letter (in this it is exclusively stated that the ZVK guarantees the medical costs of the insured will be paid. With this letter the specialist can invoice the ZVK).

All patient data is treated with extreme care. Besides each ZVK worker as a civil servant has an obligation of secrecy. In the event the patient feels his rights were violated, which also includes that a civil servant has violated the obligation of secrecy, the patient can then file a complaint against the worker concerned.

For all questions you can contact the ZVK at 715-8899. You can also email to infozvk@rijksdienstcn.com. ■ Press release

Sudoku Puzzle

without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region.

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle

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

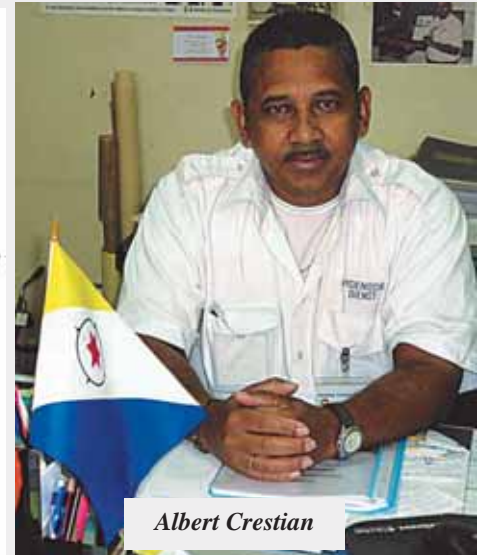
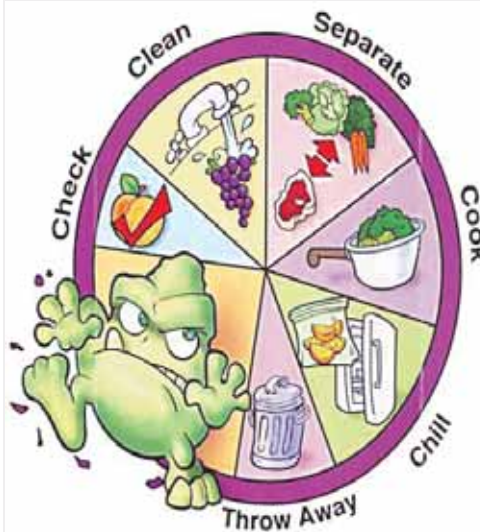
Sudoku Solution

ε	τ	ς	θ	θ	α	8	Α	γ
θ	α	Α	τ	8	γ	ε	ς	θ
8	θ	γ	Α	ς	ε	θ	α	τ
γ	ε	α	8	θ	θ	Α	τ	ς
θ	Α	θ	α	τ	ς	γ	ε	8
τ	ς	8	ε	γ	Α	α	θ	θ
Α	θ	θ	γ	ε	τ	ς	8	α
ς	γ	ε	θ	α	8	τ	θ	Α
α	8	τ	ς	Α	θ	θ	γ	ε



BONAIREAN VOICES

FOOD SAFETY



Albert Crestian

“Bon Appétit.” That’s what you usually hear when you are served a good dish. But wow wow...watch it! Is the food properly handled and cooked? Most of the time we don’t know what’s going on behind the scenes. It’s better that we do know so we can take proper precautions. Thanks to the Department of Hygiene and Health we are being informed of what exactly needs to be done to keep the high standard of caring and health in our community.

Mostly during big events the regular controlling is done by the Department of Hygiene and Health Care concerning food and non-food. Events like Bonaire Day, International Windsurfing competitions, Regatta week, Concerts, Carnival events, and last but not least, Rincon Day, this year on Monday, April 30. Besides these events the Department, consisting of six qualified controllers, has the obligation to also patrol the grocery stores, supermarkets, bakeries, hotels and resorts, apartments and other small businesses. Hygiene is always very important because types of bacteria like **salmonella** and **shigella**, found on food or human bodies, can be transmitted to others and can have deadly consequences.

Public activities are patrolled by a Task Force consisting of Hygiene, DROB, the Fire Department and the Police. The Task Force meets with those in charge of the event. In the case of Rincon Day it’s FUDECO (*Fundashon Dia di Rincon*). Information nights are held, there is control during the time of the event, and after the event there is an evaluation meeting.

Mr. Albert Crestian, head of the Department of Hygiene, explains the different precautions or measures that must taken before the end product, which is the food we are consuming, during these events.

Albert says, “During the information nights we explain some key points to those present.

1. When you are doing your shopping make sure you are carrying your cool bag or container for your cool products and take them home right away after shopping to store in the freezer or fridge. Defrosting a product can create millions of bacteria when they reach the danger zone (between 3° Celsius and 60° Celsius).

2. Check if the product has not expired,

the bags broken or spoiled, or the cans corroded.

3. When it comes to cooking, your meat needs to be defrosted in the fridge and not outside in the heat.

4. The meat that you cook must have been bought or purchased from a grocery store, supermarket or from the abattoir (on the road to Lagoen) where you get a stamp and a bill for your meat that it is appropriate to consume.

5. Your non-food materials, like cooking utensils and cooking area, needs to be hygienically clean.

6. Your personal hygiene is very important: hair, hands, face, clothes and so on...

7. Everything that is cold must be kept cold and everything that is hot must be kept hot. Remember the danger zone. If you don’t keep your food at the proper temperature it creates these bacteria called toxins, which poison our food. After that you must throw it away.

8. In transporting food keep consumables separate from the non-consumable items. If you are a stand holder your place needs to be hygienically clean.

9. And everyone selling food from tasty pastries to hot food must have an up-to-date hygiene card (the blue card). If you don’t apply these rules the Department of Hygiene has the authority to ban you from selling food. If you protest the police will be called in.

Make sure you have your registered blue card. It’s a guarantee that you are healthy and are not carrying the salmonella and shigella bacteria that can cause so much harm to others. That’s why you must take your test two weeks ahead of the event to make sure on that day you can sell food. The Department of Hygiene has the obligation to protect the consumer; the food inspector will be alerted.”

With this information we can understand the importance of the blue hygienic card so if you will be selling food on Rincon Day by now you must have your certificate that shows you have passed the test - the hygiene card. ■

Story & photo by Sio-mara Albertus.



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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
April Fri 27	04:49 0.75 ft	13:29 -0.24 ft	19:34 0.26 ft	23:21 0.21 ft		6:17	18:49
Sat 28	05:28 0.73 ft	13:51 -0.22 ft	19:45 0.32 ft			6:17	18:49
Sun 29	First Quar- ter moon	00:31 0.19 ft	06:09 0.67 ft	14:13 -0.21 ft	20:06 0.41 ft	6:16	18:49
Mon 30		01:41 0.17 ft	06:52 0.59 ft	14:35 -0.19 ft	20:35 0.52 ft	6:16	18:49
May Tue 01		02:55 0.13 ft	07:40 0.49 ft	14:59 -0.17 ft	21:10 0.64 ft	6:15	18:49
Wed 02		04:13 0.08 ft	08:34 0.37 ft	15:25 -0.15 ft	21:51 0.76 ft	6:15	18:49
Thu 03		05:34 0.00 ft	09:40 0.25 ft	15:56 -0.12 ft	22:37 0.88 ft	6:15	18:50
Fri 04		06:53 -0.09 ft	11:00 0.15 ft	16:31 -0.08 ft	23:28 0.97 ft	6:14	18:50
Sat 05	Full Moon	08:06 -0.19 ft	12:35 0.09 ft	17:13 -0.04 ft		6:14	18:50
Sun 06	00:21 1.03 ft	09:10 -0.29 ft	14:12 0.08 ft	18:08 0.01 ft		6:13	18:51
Mon 07	01:17 1.07 ft	10:07 -0.37 ft	15:36 0.12 ft	19:16 0.06 ft		6:13	18:50
Tue 08	02:14 1.08 ft	10:58 -0.42 ft	16:41 0.19 ft	20:36 0.11 ft		6:13	18:51
Wed 09	03:11 1.05 ft	11:45 -0.45 ft	17:35 0.28 ft	21:57 0.14 ft		6:13	18:51
Thu 10	04:07 0.99 ft	12:30 -0.44 ft	18:22 0.36 ft	23:16 0.15 ft		6:12	18:51
Fri 11	05:01 0.90 ft	13:11 -0.41 ft	19:07 0.46 ft			6:12	18:51

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Hemisphere (Continued from page 11)

stored in the ships’ electronics center that can be
fed directly to the six guest cabins. Prefer to
watch the ocean roll by while under way? Don
your swim trunks and take a dip the irresistible
spa pool located high above on the ship’s flying
bridge.

The mega-yacht left Bonaire on April 13th and
headed for the Aves for several days. Saint Lucia
and Sint Maarten will complete this year’s Carib-
bean cruise. Then later this year, *Hemisphere* will
sail back to Europe visiting the Azores, Nice and
Venice along the way. Before he departed, I
asked Captain Bladen what he liked most about
his job. He didn’t hesitate. “I get paid to sail
around the world. I am very fortunate. I’ve got
fantastic owners and we
share the same goal, which
is to take the boat and ex-
plore.” ■ Story & photos
by *Patrick Holian*

*Holian is a professional
writer and photographer
living on Bonaire*



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Aquaspeed Windsurfing Club

AQUASPEED BONAIRE WINDSURFERS CELEBRATES ITS 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

In the world of active participation no small island can compare to Bonaire with its distinction as a world-class destination for SCUBA diving and windsurfing. It's prominence in windsurfing is due in no small part to the Aquaspeed Windsurfing Club and its founding members. It marked its 25th anniversary earlier this year.

In 1987 at the initiative of Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus the idea was born to promote the sport of windsurfing for locals in the form of a competition among a group of youngsters. On March 27, 1987, the first local windsurfing event was organized in Bonaire at the public beach at Playa Lechi where the Bonaire International Regatta took place in those days. Because of many youngsters' positive reactions to the event there was an increased motive to continue to promote the sport competitively in Bonaire.

The same year that Aquaspeed was born was the 20th year of the Bonaire Regatta. Aquaspeed prepared 20 Bonairean windsurfers to compete during that Regatta. But only Erwin Muller and Constantino "Patun" Saragoza actually competed during the Regatta.

That same year Aquaspeed for the first time sent two Bonairean windsurfers to represent Bonaire, Patun Saragoza and Erwin Muller, to compete in Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela in the Belmont Cup.

In the following year, 1988, Aquaspeed members won the Windsurfing category in the Bonaire Regatta, the first time this ever happened. A big surprise was that the novice of the time, Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus, made history by being the first Bonairean windsurfer to win the highest prize of the event. This brought more interest in the windsurfing sport in Bonaire. In that same year Aquaspeed sent two of its members to represent the Dutch Antilles in America.

Many more events were organized and stimulated through Aquaspeed in the following years. One of the biggest was to aid the participating members of the Olympic Games. Patun Saragoza made history by becoming the first Bonairean to participate in the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 and Atlanta, 1996.

During its 25 years Aquaspeed has sent its members to compete in world championships in different parts of the world – in America, Miami and Boston – in Venezuela, Aruba, Curacao, Turkey, Italy to mention just a few. In 2001, a group of 22 Aquaspeed members in various windsurfing events returned to Bonaire with more than 20 prizes.

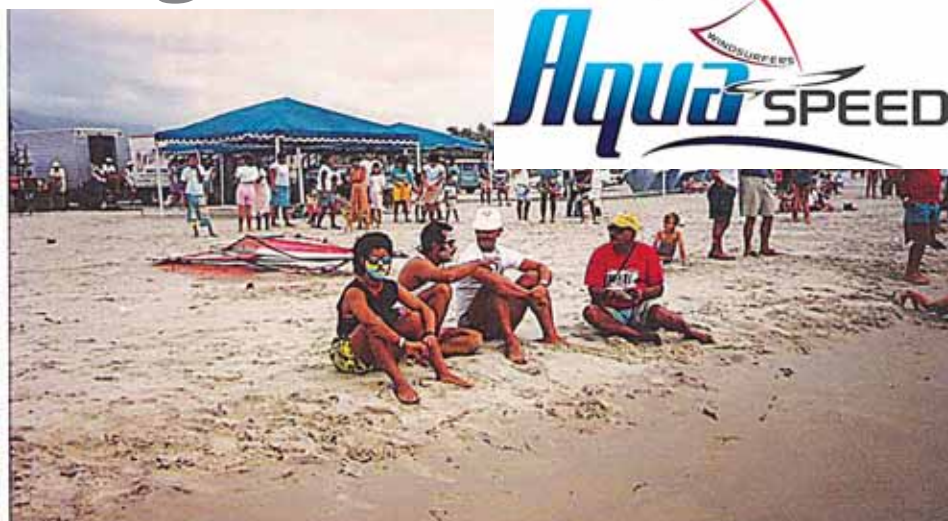
Because of all the championships Aquaspeed members participated in, Bonaire's name became internationally famous in the windsurfing media. And now we are pleased to say that Bonaire is number one on the international map for windsurfing.

Another of Aquaspeed's big achievements is its organization of numerous world championships held in Bonaire. One of the championships which has been very popular is the PWA events (Professional Windsurfing Association) which Aquaspeed organized seven times. The first was in 2002 and the last in 2011 was very successful. Aquaspeed recognizes the PWA for its great help in organizing year-round events world-wide where Aquaspeed members participate.

Lots of thanks are due to Aquaspeed members, the press, governments, sponsors and the Bonairean people. For more information contact Derchlien Vrolijk: derchlienvrolijk@gmail.com or call 786-4339. ■ Aquaspeed press release/L.D./G.D.



Windsurf pioneer Elvis Martinus did not give up fishing.



Relaxing on the beach at Sorobon has always been popular



Windsurfing in the 90s



Pro Kids was a Bonaire innovation that swept the windsurf world. This is an early award ceremony for an MCB Bank sponsored event.



Windsurfing Sunset



PWA World Cup Bonaire 2002

On the beach 10 years ago

Bonaire "Ambassadors"

The Bonaire Ambassador program honors the island's repeat guests. This group is quite outstanding. It includes:

Brandon Sellick, 21 Years coming to Bonaire—Gold Medal Ambassador. He writes:

"Paradise is defined as a state of supreme happiness, and varies among different people and their preferences. Some people wait their whole lives searching for their paradise. However I can say with confidence I've found my paradise located in the Netherlands Antilles Islands. Bonaire is a Caribbean island that is world renowned for its excellent scuba diving and is consistently rated among the best diving locations in the world. Excellent scuba diving is far from the only reason I love Bonaire. Bonaire is an island that is loaded with a rich history and friendly natives; from the ancient slave huts on the beach, to the boat captains of DIVI Dive that keep me coming back every year. Having gone to Bonaire once a year for my whole life, is an experience I would never give up. Bonaire is a beautiful island that words can't describe and is always on my mind.

Enid & Keith Castora – 16 years—Silver Medals. They write:

This will be our 13th Thanksgiving in 16 years spent in Bonaire. The main reason why we return year after year are the people and the water. The people of Bonaire, especially those at the Divi Flamingo Hotel, have accepted us as family. We find them genuine, courteous and friendly. They go out of their way to make us feel welcome to their island.

The clear blue water and excellent reefs truly make this a divers' paradise. The diving is easily accessible like no where else in the world. In Bonaire, a "bad" dive, which is rare, is better than a good dive anywhere else. This

is one of the only places we have been where shore diving is as good or better than off a boat. The diving is world class and Bonaire is the exact reason why we became certified divers.



Ambassador group photo

Pam Dyke & Jerry Jehle – 16 years- Silver Medals. Pam writes:

Sixteen years and 500 dives later I still look forward to visiting and diving in the waters that surround Bonaire. The island has always been at the top of my favorite diving destinations despite having traveled the world over to dive in some of the most awe-inspiring waters on earth.

Bonaire also holds a special place in my heart for another important reason, as well. During my second dive trip there with US Scuba Center in 1995, I met my life partner, Jerry Jehle, and we have been together ever since.

And let's face it: Clear turquoise water; an abundance of interesting, beautiful and sometimes incredible land and sea creatures to investigate; warm, friendly people eager to help you with anything you need; and a top notch accommodations at the Flamingo Beach Resort make for a wonderful getaway for any scuba enthusiast. I can say without a doubt that Jerry and I will visit Bonaire for as long as we continue to DIVE! ■ *Press release*

The Late Night Place To Be

Tropical Rancho

In a yet, still, empty nightclub I walked in to meet the owner, Anthony Emerenciana. Anthony has always been a nightlife guy, so when the opportunity presented itself to taking over his favorite nightclub, he grabbed it with both hands. This is how he started out with this nightclub in December 29th, 2006. So this year will be its 6th anniversary. Last June Tropical Rancho moved into a new, bigger, more spacious location at Kaya Hermandat # 1, the small street between Jong Bonaire and Telbo.

Anthony said, "I decided to name the nightclub Tropical Rancho because the music is mainly tropical: Latin, Caribbean and Antillean." He added: "Since 2009, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, we offer salsa and bachata dance lessons by a professional dancer."

The entrance is free except on special nights when there is a theme party. Sometimes there is a local or international DJ present and even a live band. The dress code is casual, chic or classy; flip flops are not permitted. There is a security officer at the door to make sure everyone behaves and that the place is safe to frequent. Anthony said: "Next month in May we will start with karaoke nights, every last Thurs-



Elsy and Anthony welcome you to the club

day of the month, so feel free to drop by. Here you are always a pop star!" Tropical Rancho is fully air-conditioned, smoke free, has disco lights and smoke effects. "Don't worry. For the smokers, we have a porch with a table and some chairs outside."

Tropical Rancho's Happy Hour is every Friday from 11 pm till midnight, except on holidays. Anthony said cheerfully: "We have a wide variety of alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks such as Black Label, Nuvo and frozen drinks like piña coladas. Come by and chill out at Tropical Rancho with a drink to refresh your night before or after dancing!"

The opening hours are from 9 pm till 3 am from Thursday to Sunday, no exceptions. Yes, that means even on holidays. So, put your dancing shoes on and *bailamos*. ■ *Story & photo by Rose Feng*

The Late Night Place To Be
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-Dress Code casual, chic or classy
-Air conditioned, smoke free, disco light and "smoke" effects

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Kaya Hermandat # 1, the small street between Jong Bonaire and Telbo.

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APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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



BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BARs

Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar- over 50!

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ON and IN the WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if its not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

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

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop open now.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind TIS.

HOME CARE

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

PARTY PLACE

Tropical Rancho is where you go if you want to dance to Latin rhythms in a friendly, safe atmosphere. It's open late and in town

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

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Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

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Professional massage therapy, facials, reflexology, lymph drainage, Shiatsu, deep tissue massage and other body and facial treatments

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A Directory listing is free for regular advertisers in The Reporter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Day	Date	Ship	Arrive/ Depart	PAX Cap	Line
THU	4/26/ Last	Caribbean Princess Ship of the	1200-1900 (11-12)	3100 Season	Princess Cruises

Information provided by the Harbormaster

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, April 27

-Job Fair—to recruit new employees for the prison, Plenchi Energia (next to El Mundo restaurant) 4-8 pm. More on page 2

-Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park, 6-10pm. Sample the cuisine of Bonaire's restaurants at bargain prices. All invited. Music by Foyan Boys and dance group Nawati. More info, call Helen Thodé at the TCB 717-8322.

-Happy Hour Crafts Market, Wilhelmina Park 5-9 pm,

Saturday, April 28 –Farmers' Market at Pakus di Pruga, 8 am –12 noon, on Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Table-\$3, call 700-3488

Monday, April 30 - Rincon Day/ Queen's Day Legal holiday-All day! Don't miss it!

Monday, April 30— The 27th edition of the 17.5 km. BONAIRE RINCON DAY RUN organized by COM-CABON

Start time: Race/ Speedwalk at 6 am and Relay kids teams at 6:15 am at Kralendijk Stadium. Finish at Rose Inn in Rincon. Sign up April 27 at Zeezicht Bar Restaurant at 5 pm. Participation Fee \$3, includes T-shirt. Trophies for class winners. **\$200 cash each** for fastest man and fastest woman.

Tuesday, May 1—

-Labor Day. Legal holiday, Banks and stores closed.

-Bike Parade— Rincon, 5 pm. More on page 8.

Saturday, May 5

-Book Fair & Flea Market at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, 11 am to 5 pm. Snacks, drinks, pets! More on page 18

— **Farmers Market at Kriabon**, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.

Saturday, May 26 –Program of Fados, Tangos & Classical music of ABC islands & St. Martin. More in the next editions of *The Reporter*.

Saturday, May 26 -Miss Bonaire Pageant, Rescheduled from April 21.

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 afternoon-evening hours.

• **Kas di Arte—Ongoing exhibit and sale of work of different artists.** Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am-noon, 1-6 pm. On the sea promenade

Saturdays

• **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar**, 9am - 1pm. Everything for sale: household items, plants, baby things, clothes & shoes, everything old & new. Food riot, BBQ. All funds go toward maintaining the Park. No entrance fee. Rent a table: monthly pass- \$25; weekly-\$10

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) Last Saturday of the month** at Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter's Garage Sale-se below), 8 am-noon

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Lots of free parking. Tel. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. 560-7539.) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **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.

• **Chess Training** - Children & adults. \$5, 512-9660. Volunteers welcome

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, Saturdays 2:30 pm Tera Cora ranch. info: 786-0150

Sundays

• **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

Mondays

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

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

Tuesdays
• **Chez Nous Restaurant**—Multi-course dinner prepared by students, under direction of teachers, \$20. At the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628

Wednesdays
• **Chez Nous Restaurant**—Multi-course lunch, about \$12, at the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628.

• **Ben & Harrie Acoustic Guitar Duo** at Spice Beach Club, 6-9 pm, Eden Beach

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

• **Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park**, sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.

• **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

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 **when 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 Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm—

All levels, cost is \$1, 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 Jatu Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone 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. 785-0046.

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: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plasa Wilhelmina; Sunday service; 10 a.m. in Dutch Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service; 8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch Children's club, every Saturday from 4:30 till 6 pm in Kralendijk,(annex of the church.) Contact; Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9:00 am Worship service in English; 10:45 am Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm Adult bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

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 Sunday mornings 10am to 11:30am. Bible studies in English 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: Information: Call 701-9522 .

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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Pet of the Week

Isaac was about to be named "Sinatra," after Ol' Blue Eyes himself, until Shelter staff heard him talk. Instead of the deep, musical Siamese tones that were expected...Isaac sounds like a six-week-old kitten when he speaks! But what he lacks in voice, he more than makes up for in looks, personality and affection.

"Isaac" is a big healthy boy, about two years old weighing in at 10 pounds. His eyes are electric blue and reflect his intelligence. His fur is a cream color with slight darker markings on his head and tail. But that's where the Siamese heritage ends...he is not at all hyperactive, vocal or demanding as many Siamese can be.

Isaac is very laid back and quiet (only a little kitten "peep" every now and then!) and gets along well with cats of all ages. His favorite hobbies are sleeping and being petted while he eats. He is sterilized, vaccinated and ready to go to a loving home that will appreciate his handsome looks and kitten "crooning."

■ Jane Madden Disko

You may meet Isaac and the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9am—1 pm and 3-5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com

SHELTER NEWS ⇨



- See your dollars in action! Thanks to the income and donations from the Shelter Art Auction last December there's now a **brand new commodious cement kennel** and run (see photo at right). The second one is under construction and will be completed soon. One dog was overheard to say, "If I have to be caged up at least it's in a very pleasant place!" Thanks all you generous people who bid and donated!
- There are still **lots of kittens** to choose from – all colors, personali-



KITTY COMMENTS

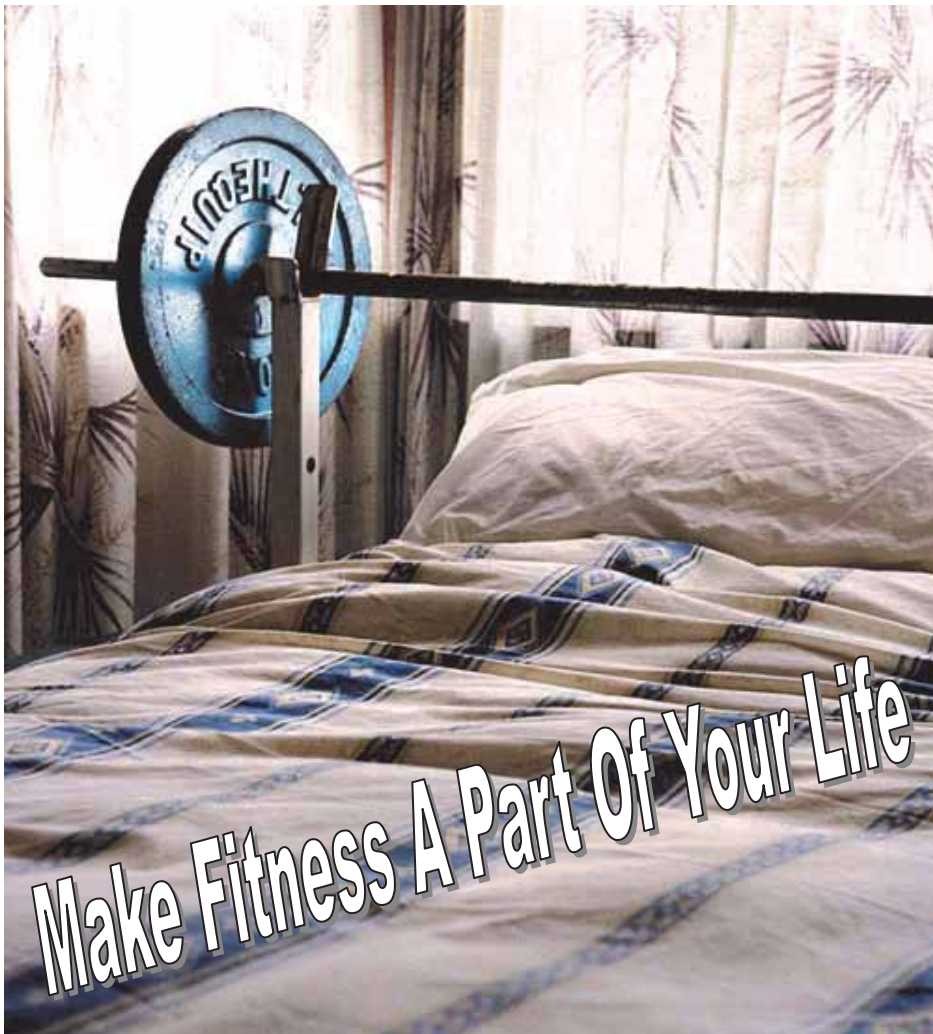
Dear Bonaire Reporter,
Thank you for putting my photo last year July in the *Bonaire Reporter*.
My name was "Holly" at the time of adoption, but I got a new name and it is now PANDORA .
I was adopted by my now best friend Victoria. I have a wonderful home now.
Every afternoon we have a nice happy hour with wine. As you can see I had a little too much to drink; I fell asleep!

Pandora



ties, sizes and just adorable. And they're all healthy, happy and social and looking for a loving and appreciative home. Stop by the Shelter now while there are still such a choice and variety.

- Don't Forget! It's the **Shelter Book Fair and Flea Market on Saturday, May 5, 11 am to 5 pm** – at the Shelter itself on the Lagoen Road. If you have things to donate for this special event, call the Shelter at 717-4989. You may drop off or if it's big, they may come pick it up. ■
Laura DeSalvo



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Horoscopes 2012

May 2012

Aries (March 21-April 20): Managing your hours and days, organizing your interactions, creating supportive assistance allows you time for what's most important now - intelligent acquisition of new knowledge. This knowledge will become your future tool for success and provide you with the ability to master your goals. Don't forget service to self and others. That's the foundation.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): You must begin to concentrate on your creative self identity. You also need some celebrations, more social interaction, leisure, entertainment, and a party. The fun in your life hasn't seen the light of day in many years now it's forgotten you exist. Fun and play actually assist in bringing our talents forth. Talents are Soul gifts. What are yours again?

Gemini (May 23-June 20): The New Moon provides new thought processes concerning home, dwellings, and what brings nurturance to you. There has been confusion of late about these issues. You seek community but it hasn't happened. You seek a new state of spiritual cohesion yet the field isn't prepared yet. Ask at New Moon time for the next step in your identification.

Cancer (June 21-July 20): You seek news of everything from everywhere. From neighbors, previous classmates, the media-all having to do with community. One short tip. Don't gossip. Just exchange information and retreat from the temptation to speak ill of others. You will gather and organize all information received and create a world order in your mind. Take in some historical landmarks.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 22): Notice that your personal values are very prominent and are making decisions that will affect your future. It's important to be aware of this. Perhaps you can review what your values are and evaluate if they are concurrent with your needs. Are they well thought out? Do they still serve you? Our values either serve our self esteem or lessen it. Which is which for you?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Everything becomes new, if you yield to this. From your appearance to intelligence to your role in the world which means your social identity. It is important that our actions reflect who we are internally. If this is not so, then others experience us with cognitive dissonance.

See that a union occurs between inner and outer selves for the sake of synthesis.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your life is rather hidden these days and we continue to search for you but you're nowhere to be found. A deep psychological change has caught you unawares. Important insights occur. Dreams are your guides. Therapy for some is good. For others the best medicine is serving those in need. An extraordinary housecleaning is in order, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What groups in the world do you admire? What organizations have the values you hope to have? What church, team, club, league or fraternity calls to you? What community (town, village, intentional) speaks your language? Investigate this. It's your future. You're not to be a loner anymore.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20): Something true to your deepest ambitions may just come calling at your door. Most times only elephants sail into our living rooms and roost there much to our dismay. But things are shifting a bit and a communication quite desirous may knock gently. Watch and wait and listen. And write.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 20): You distinguish the truth about yourself as separate from other people's truths (about you). This is quite important but know that as others won't recognize this truth you'll have to all by yourself. A regeneration is occurring about who you are, why, how, where, and possibly when. Move that is. Seek assistance from others. Then be on the move.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18): There may be an examination of past and present wounds. They will harbor within till, unable to hold them any longer, you seek others who will listen compassionately. As you feel yourself and realities dissolving, new and better forms of self and resources emerge. Sensitivity is good. It's information.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20): Energy for things new, uncluttered, organized, categorized, detailed, and thus in harmony occur to you in leaps and bounds because it's time for expansion on every level of your life. You have a fine eye for inner detail. This leads to artistic endeavors. Capture them, bring them into form for beauty becomes you. ■ Annie

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
the Caribbean. (More on how food service standards are maintained on page 12) Information? Call the slaughterhouse at 717-4393.

► **On Tuesday, April 17, the police arrested a man in connection with the shootings that wounded three persons on March 3 near the Harbourside shopping mall.** The suspect, 26 year old L.P.O.W., born in Curacao, was arrested at his workplace and taken to the police station for questioning. The investigation is continuing.

► **The Netherlands ranks fourth on the list of the world's happiest nations.** The list, drawn up by three economists, was published on the eve of a United Nations (UN) conference on happiness. Economists analyzed a series of studies and surveys conducted in the past few years. The researchers used a number of parameters including income, freedom, trust in government and life expectancy.

Denmark is the happiest country, followed by Finland and Norway. Next on the list are The Netherlands, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, Austria and Ireland. The world's least happy nation, according to the researchers, is the African nation of Togo.

► **THE HAGUE-- The Dutch Council of Ministers on Friday suspended the treaty with Suriname, effectively stopping payments to that country.**



The "direct reason" for the decision was last

week's approval of the amnesty law by the Suriname Parliament. The law gives amnesty to the suspects who killed 15 opponents of the Surinamese military regime on December 8, 1982. Suriname President Dési Bouterse is one of the suspects in the current criminal trial.

Under the treaty that The Netherlands and Suriname signed upon the independence of the latter country in 1975, The Hague promised to pay Paramaribo a total amount of 1.6 billion euros for the development of the country. Some 20 million euros are left of that amount. Ceasing payment is not possible, but suspending payment is.

► **Bonaireans are still men of the sea.** It was shown when authorities in Bonaire received word last week of an explosion onboard cruise ship *Celebrity Constellation* 10 miles north of the island. The police chief together with a team of firemen, Royal Military Police personnel and the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard headed to the location, where four crew members had suffered serious burns when a boiler blew. The victims were taken to San Francisco Hospital and later flown out to Colombia by air ambulance for specialized treatment.

► As part of the project Capacity Development of Service Institutions, **Coffie & Van der Hoek BV, gave a series of eight training sessions to 51 employees** - from WEB, *Kadaster, Fundashon Cas Boneriano and Directie Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling*. The course, funded by the EU via USONA, gave employees the opportunity to improve their service and communication skills.

► **Live the dream! Become a Certified Dive Instructor.** Sign up today for the

Instructor Development Course (IDC) at Dive Friends. First class starts Sunday, April 29. Call now to 717-2929. Email: info@dive-friends-bonaire.com

► **The Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association writes to say there will be a Happy Hour Market at Plaza Wilhelmina every Friday from 5 to 9 pm, starting April 27.** Some of Bonaire's best artists and craftspeople show their wares and it's a perfect place to do shopping for yourself or for gifts: handmade, unique, well priced.

► **World class massages are available from Nubia at the Face and Body Spa in the Sand Dollar mall.** The wall full of certificates attests to her extensive training. Her experience and skill will sooth your

body. See ad on page 10. Prices are reasonable.



► **Don't miss it—Monday, April 30 Bonaire's biggest, and perhaps, its best party is Rincon/Queen's Day celebrated in Rincon all day long. Great local foods, music, entertainment, atmosphere!** ■ G./L.D.

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