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FREE**

**BONAIRE** July 6-20, 2012, Year 19, Issue 14  
**The REPORTER**

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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Leroy Winklaar  
and his wood  
block matrix

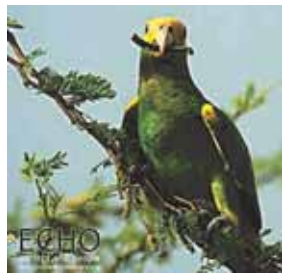
**SGB At Kas di Arte**

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# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Nearly one year ago, 112 chicks - including 16 Yellow-shouldered Amazons - were confiscated from a poacher.



They've come a long way from the starving, unweaned chicks who arrived at Echo Foundation. They are now beautiful young birds! The rescued Amazons have been released in several groups back into the wild. Among them are several injured wild Loras who came into Echo's care: Twiggy, Billy, and Bob, featured in past editions of *The Reporter*.

► So far this year the BES Island tax office received 4,500 income tax returns. The first tax refunds were paid out in June by a team that was formed especially for this activity. The tax department says, "The *Belastingdienst* is ready to serve you! We are here to help you!"

► An early spate of tropical storms has been keeping forecasters busy this year. Debby, the fourth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season (and the first hurricane for the season), has set a record. This season marks the first time in more than 150 years that so many storms have showed up so early. The first named storm of the season, Tropical Storm Alberto, appeared on May 19, the earliest debut for a named storm since 2003. The unusual onslaught of named storms has not altered the outlook for the rest of the season, which is forecast to be a near normal one. (Andrea Mustain)

► Some may remember that Mary Cheney, daughter of former US Vice President Dick Cheney was "stranded" on Bonaire during the 9-11 attack aftermath. Last week she married her longtime partner, Heather Poe. Mary's parents said the two had been in a committed relationship for many years and they were delighted that they could take advantage of the "opportunity to have the relationship recognized." Mary Cheney and Poe have two children.

► The wife of a US diplomat who vanished on the Caribbean Dutch island of Curaçao nearly two years ago has pleaded guilty to hampering the investigation into his disappearance. The US Department of Justice said Friday that Abby Hogan pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and accused her of repeatedly providing false information

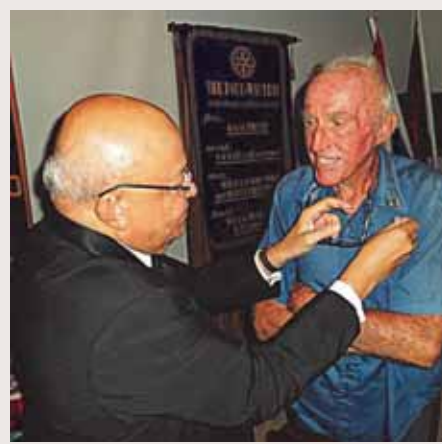


Jan Kloss (left) Takes The Helm of the Bonaire Rotary Club

► Last week the Rotary Club of Bonaire held its annual Turnover of the Board meeting. New Positions for 2012-2013 are:

President	Jan Kloos
Treasurer	Jeaniro Balentien
Asst. Treasurer	Robert Smaal
Secretary	Ruud Vermeulen
Asst. Secretary	Bob Ram
Incoming President	Aniek Schouten
Sergeant At Arms	Gregory Obersi

Pioneer island dentist and charter Bonaire Rotarian, Frits Peereboom, was honored with the Paul Harris Fellow award as well that evening. This marks the 31st year of Rotary Club Bonaire giving service to the Bonaire community. The Rotary slogan for the new year is Peace through Service.



Frits Peereboom receives the Harris medal



to federal agents and withholding relevant information. (Poster at left.)

Hogan's plea, however, did not solve the mystery of her husband's disappearance. James Hogan, 49, was US vice consul in Curaçao when he disappeared during a late night walk on September 24, 2009. The couple had lived on the island since August 2008 in an upscale neighborhood near the capital of Willemstad.

Abby Hogan entered her plea in a federal courthouse in Gainesville, Florida, where she now lives. She faces up to 20 years in prison during a sentence hearing on June 6. Her

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# Art Day Is Sunday

The 20th edition of Dia di Arte is this coming Sunday, July 8, from 11 am to 11 pm at Wilhelmina Park.

Come and get to know Bonairean artists, musicians and writers together with some international stars. After the official opening there will be an exhibition of local dance and painting for the children.

All day live bands will perform. You can buy CDs of local music, paintings and handcrafts. Sample delicious Creole dishes, seafood, home-made *lamunchi* and tamarind juice, fruit punch, chocolate, candy and cakes.

Let the kids enjoy the organized games. Relax with a cold beer or a soft drink at the well stocked bar. Hang out for a few hours.

Come and have a look, admire, applaud our island's talents and buy art works from the many artists who will be displaying and selling their original works at special "Art Day" prices.

Don't miss this opportunity for fun, culture and entertainment. ■ *Press release*



## SGB Student Chef Update



Going to Italy in 2012: Teacher Vernon Martijn, Chaperone Ezzard Semeleer, Students Deborah Janga, Alminelly Cicilia and Natasha Bernabela, Chaperone Liz Rijna. Kneeling: Students Nick Story, Shahaira Molina and Giovannie Veld

Bellissima... the food and life in Italy's region of Emilia Romagna is just that: beautiful. Since the Italy Stage/Exchange program between Bonaire SGB Horeca students and region Emilia Romagna started in 2002 over 80 students have had the opportunity to go to Italy for stage and learning all sorts of life lessons abroad as well as cooking, and serving and the passion around food!

I was able to visit "our boys" recently and take them to lunch and see their apartments, where they work, as well as meet the girlfriends and babies!

We must be proud of these boys for they are very accomplished chefs in Italy's famous Rimini tourist city and they cook beautifully! The owners of these star restaurants are very pleased with our Bonaire boys, says Chef Antonio Mazzotti of Locanda Girasoli.

Experiences in life are given by all of us for the youth of Bonaire and what they do with it is in their hands. ■

Sara Matera



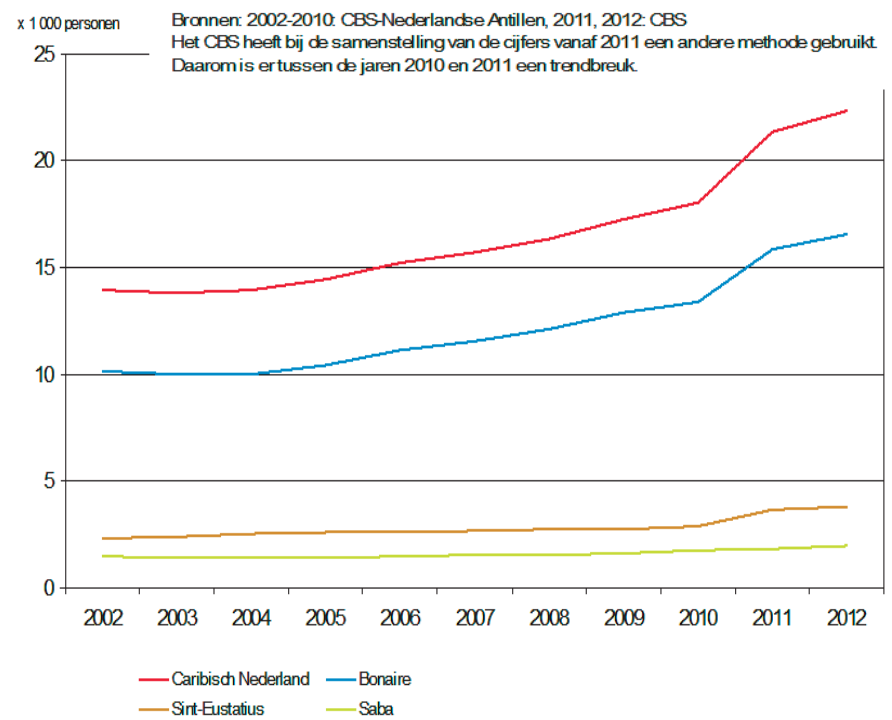
Soon to be one year old is Andy-Joel, son of Alexie Ramirez. Meanwhile Uncle Felix Torres (right) is a good babysitter.

Editor's note: Sara Matera was the original organizer who made it possible for so many of our SGB students to have the opportunity to study with the masters in the Emilia Romagna area of Italy. Thank you, Sara!

— Caribisch Nederland — Bonaire  
— Sint-Eustatius — Saba

## Bonaire's Population Up 4.5% in 2011

Number of Residents of the Caribbean Netherlands 2002-2012



According to the Dutch Central Bureau of statistics on January 1st, 2012, almost 22,000 persons were residing in the Dutch Caribbean, a growth of 4.5% in one year. On Bonaire - 16,541; on St. Eustatius- 3,791; and on Saba- 1,971. Individual growth rates were St. Eustatius 3%, Saba 7.5% and Bonaire 4.5%. The growth was comparable to that of recent years and mainly from immigration.

Bonaire's population at the year's end was 16,541, the largest in its history. On Bonaire 1,533 people immigrated while 848 emigrated. Of the immigrants, 34% were from The Netherlands, the US (16%), Canada (12%) and Curaçao (10%). The emigrated departed mainly to The Netherlands (44%) and Curaçao (22%). ■

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# Best On The Island: Rincon Roads



*Kaya Patia*

All over Playa, Hato and Belnem roads are being chewed up and spit out by monstrous machines digging for sewer lines. In other parts of the island roads are full of patched up potholes made by heavy machinery. It looks like a spotted moray eel. BUT the dirt roads of the 'fruit-street' bario in Rincon have been paved with smooth silky asphalt ribbons! Hurrah for Rincon. It was an honor and a great pleasure to see something neat and smooth and well maintained! ■ *Greta Kooistra*



*Kaya Taki*

## A Stronger Heart for Bonaire

The Foundation Heart for Bonaire is proud to have two collecting points at Flamingo Airport. At both locations of the TecnoBar (before and after the Immigration exit check) those interested can donate money to the Bonairean Heart Foundation. Donations will be used to help Bonaire become heart-safe.

Antonella Binelli of the TecnoBar together with the representatives of the Heart Foundation Bonaire, Robert Smaal and Rob van Dongen



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# On the Island Since...2011 - Charlene Bosch-Tixi and Gabriel Tixi

"I was born in Cape Town, South-Africa, and at 21 I moved to England where I lived for six years. I made some trips through Europe, then I decided to work on cruise ships; it was a good way to make money and a great opportunity to travel. When I was on my second contract I met Mr. Tixi. On our first date 'out' for lunch on St. Thomas we both agreed we didn't want any serious relationship. We just wanted to have a little bit of fun together." *She laughs.* "Obviously that worked out very well! The rest is history. We carried on doing our contracts together on the same ship and we discovered we wanted the same things in life. One year later, September 2006, while we were both working on the *Caribbean Princess*, we bought our house on Bonaire without seeing it. And from 2006 until 2011 we came here four months per year. Last year in February we became residents and now we are living here full time.

After seeing Europe and 'doing' the Mediterranean during my first contract, I went off to New York, Alaska, the Caribbean, the Amazon, Australia and the Pacific. After having been to all these places we realized we loved the heat and the sun and somewhere quiet. On the ship we had such a busy life, and then it's just the feeling that you get. When we got off the ship in Bonaire at separate times, we both felt it was like..." *Gabriel laughs and fills in,* "A comfortable pair of shoes - if that makes any sense!"

**"To work on a cruise ship is not a job - it's a way of life. You work seven days a week... so you work every day... for six months"**

*Charlene continues.* "Before we decided we wanted to buy a house, we looked all over the globe, then Bonaire came up and we did a bit of research and decided, 'Yes! This is it!' On the ship we started looking on-line at all the properties here and when we found one, we were right in the middle of our six-month contract and we couldn't leave the ship. So we came up with this ingenious plan to send my mom and Phil to check on the property. We bought them a ticket from England to Bonaire and after they had seen the house they would spend a week on the cruise ship with us. It turned out that the house we fell in love with wasn't suitable for us. But then mom and Phil viewed this house and when they showed us the photos the first night they were on the ship, we made the decision to buy it and... here we are!"

*She gets me a drink and says,* "To work on a cruise ship is not a job - it's a way of life. You work seven days a week and every day is a Monday and you do six months contracts, so you work every day 12 hours or more for six months. It's a small-knit community and you meet interesting people and every week is different and time flies by. They are always looking for customer service oriented people and a big bonus is when you speak more languages. I did it for seven years and Gabriel for 10."

"I left Italy in 1994," *Gabriel says.* "I moved to England and lived there for eight years. In the middle of the eight years I spent five months in Florida. After the eight years, I moved to Menorca, Spain, for two years. During that time I went to work on the ships, starting with the *Queen Elizabeth II*. Then I was part of the opening - the set up team - for the big *Queen Mary II*. Then I went to Princess Cruises for three years. The following three years I was in Australia sailing the Pacific and going to all the beautiful places.

The 15th of December 2004, Charlene and I hooked up in Barbados and our first date ashore was in St. Thomas. We found that we love hot weather, a good quality of life, the sea and animals in general. Last year in February we decided we wanted to enjoy our house and spend more time together, so we stopped working on the ships and moved here full time."

"I thought here's the opportunity for me for the first time in my life to do what I want," *Charlene says.* "And because I had an interest in the glass art my mom was doing, I thought I would pursue that as a business for myself. I named my jewelry art, 'Elements', because glass comes from sand and sand comes from the ocean, it's heated with fire and cooled by air. I started to sell it at the cruise ship market and it went well. Now we're at the Happy Hour Arts, Crafts and Souvenirs Market every Friday from 5-9 at the plaza next to El Mundo in Kaya Grandi. Hopefully in a few months I'll be opening my own shop."

"I started a business here," *Gabriel says,* then I sold my shares to spend more time with my family: our three teenage dogs, our two cats and my wife, the monkey!" "Thank you, darling!" *Charlene laughs.* *Gabriel grins and goes on.* "Now I do some work in the real estate business and a few other projects, but I have weekends off for the first time in my life! Christmas, New Years and weekends - I've worked them all!"

We were living together on the ship and that was only one room, so it we were very much together. And all that time we dreamt of this. Every time we were off contract we would come here and sit at the pool and talk and talk and we would dream of the day we would live on Bonaire full time. Now we are living the dream and it turned out that reality is even better! I've done a lot and everything comes in stages and now it's time for quality and maybe one day we will have kids. We love to stay at home and spend time with each other; we actually love to spend time together. She's not just my wife you see, she is my best friend."

*Charlene and Gabriel get along beautifully and together with their pets - of which three came from the Shelter - they make a lovely family. Another source of inspiration is the glass jewelry Charlene creates: the colors and shades, the depth and the shapes, it's truly stunning.*



Charlene and Gabriel at the craft market



The family at home

"Charlene married me for my passport," *Gabriel jokes,* "because I've got an Italian passport and with her South African passport she needed a visa for almost every country. We got married 11-11-11 on Klein Bonaire. We had our family and friends from all over the world come over. They had never met each other before and many of them stayed for a week. We made many tours over the island and to our surprise they all got on like a house afire! They bonded over a week! Now they are all Facebook friends and they're planning to come back this year for the one-year reunion.

It was the rainy season and the morning of the wedding it rained and we thought, 'Oh! This sucks!' because there's little you can do on Klein when it rains. I met up with the wedding party and we took the *Kantika Too* to Klein where everything was set up by Philip and Suze. Fifteen minutes later Charlene came with her dad on the *Kantika di Amor*. Everybody was dressed in white - no shoes - no ties. When Charlene set foot ashore the heavens opened up and the sun came through."

"We had the ceremony and everybody was standing around us in a circle and that was really lovely," *Charlene says,* "and later on the *Samur* picked us up for a sun-

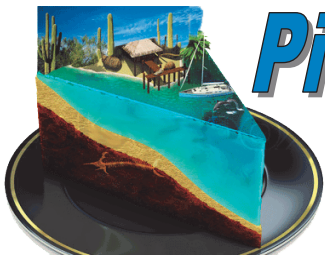
set champagne cruise. The dolphins were jumping, the fish were waving - hahaha! Just kidding!"

"Then we had dinner at Spice," *Gabriel continues,* "and at the end of the evening Monkey face over here smashed a cake on my face, so I grabbed her and we jumped into the sea all dressed!" "When we went to our hotel room," *Charlene takes over,* "It turned out that our lovely friends had ransacked the place, so we spent the whole night cleaning! But when they came to the house the next day for a barbecue, revenge was sweet because I'd dipped the necks of the Polar bottles in Matouk's hot pepper sauce. To make a long story short: they couldn't drink anymore after that! So that was our wedding, never to forget!"

We simply love it here: the climate, the people, the cleanliness of the island and the fact that Bonaire sits in the middle of the world and outside the hurricane belt. We've seen the whole world, but this is where we want to be. This could be the best place in the world." ■



Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



# Piece of Paradise

A column to answer your Bonaire real estate related questions. Please email your questions to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE ON BONAIRE

One way of investing your assets with low risk and high return is in real estate. This is also true for real estate on Bonaire. In the long run, despite trade cycles, real estate on Bonaire has only increased in value, especially waterfront properties. Furthermore there is a very high demand for rentals in the long term rental market as well as in the budget and high-end vacation rental market. There is a trend on Bonaire that shows that tourists, once they return to the island, prefer to rent a villa or an apartment instead of staying in a hotel.

Nowadays, with interest rates plunging, it is becoming increasingly interesting to invest in real estate on Bonaire. Even with the new property tax (*vastgoedbelasting*), the taxes you pay on your property (1.15% of the registered value) are still lower than the taxes you pay on your savings in most countries.

Many of our business clients ask us for the exact amount of the ROI expected if they were to purchase a certain property. Many times we can provide such data based on the return realized by the previous owner. However, for those properties that still need to be introduced on the rental market, we have to give an estimate based on our knowledge of and experience with the Bonaire real estate rental market.

The return on an investment in real estate here is based on a number of aspects, especially when the property will be introduced in the vacation rental market.

Firstly, return is generated by the revenue from the rental. Considering only this, especially after costs are deducted, the return may be disappointing to the owner, especially in comparison to other investment possibilities. However, it is often overlooked that this return, although maybe not so high, will remain at the same level over a very long period and will pay for the maintenance of your property as well as, more often than not, your travel expenses when you come to Bonaire to enjoy your property yourself.



Sunbelt Realty photo

Secondly there is the perceived return of the benefit of using the property on Bonaire by the owner. In the event the owner vacations in his property every high season, this will of course harm the financial return. This is compensated, however, by the fact that the owner does not pay rent for the use of his property and that the costs for his stay are covered by the rental income from the rest of the year.

Lastly, there is the long-term return when the property is sold again. We have seen an annual increase in the value of real estate on Bonaire of almost 10% for the past few years, with a halt since 2008. When this return is added to the annual return from the rental income as well as the owner's benefit of using the property, the return on investment in real estate on Bonaire becomes very attractive, being a high return with a relatively low risk.

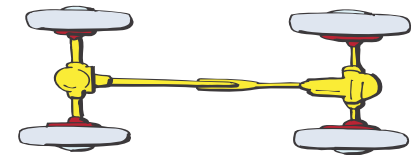
We therefore advise you when you consider investing in real estate on Bonaire to look at all three of these aspects that together form the total of the return on an investment.

In general, based on this you can only conclude that investing in real estate on Bonaire is very profitable indeed, besides of course providing you with endless joy and great reasons to come visit our island, and hopefully one day become a permanent resident. ■ Corine van der Hout © Sunbelt Realty



# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 107<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n -wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!



Bianca, the blue eyed new employee of Zeeko's. Black hair, black make up, standing next to the immaculate white stretched Ford Lincoln limousine.

Bonaire –

Part from food Zeeko sells almost everything. It is said they have more than 100,000 articles for sale. Zeeko Enterprises is located next to the new pet shop and opposite the Bonaco Gasoline station, on Kaya Industria.

The biggest article, I suppose, is their white stretched limousine, a Ford Lincoln. Although the Lincoln is just a four-door sedan it takes a few minutes to walk around it to get a first impression of what kind of vehicle stretches itself out from

one horizon to the other. The owner had to remove a heavy concrete bar to convert two parking spaces into one huge parking space to fit the Lincoln. This limousine has space for some 12 guests. It is equipped with brown all-leather seats and sofas and of course there are a television, a DVD-player and an overfilled bar and cooling facilities on board. There are loads and loads of spotlights all over in the white interior and there is a lot of chrome

(Continued on page 13)

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# Flemish Fries

## The New Belgian Snack Bar

This year the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will not only be a big day for all Americans but also for the two courageous entrepreneurs, Sander Rietveld and Ruud Masker. On that day they will open their new Belgian Snack bar called *Het Vlaamse Frites Huis* (The Flemish Fries House) on Kaya Korona for the first time.



Sander Rietveld and Ruud Masker.

Months ago the two friends started to prepare for the big day. Sander Rietveld moved here in October, but he had been coming to Bonaire for 25 years. Rietveld, a former manager of a paintball establishment in Zaandam, decided to make the move across the ocean before he got too old. In his old friend Rudd he found a reliable partner he could trust. Three years ago, on one of his vacations here, Sander bought a house and decided to turn it into a Belgian snack bar. As the name already promises, they will specialize in Belgian food, mainly fries. "The potatoes are being shipped all the way from Holland, so they will be real Dutch potatoes, and we will fry them in two stages to bring out the delicious taste of Belgian fries," explains Sander. The *Vlaamse Frites* are longer, thicker and darker than the usual fries, and they are very popular in Holland and Belgium. Besides the fries, they will also sell whole barbecued chicken for take-away, chicken legs with fries and/or salad as well as other snack items such as hamburgers, *frikandels*, and *lumpia*. A glance at the first draft of the menu reveals surprisingly affordable prices, comparable to other, similar restaurants on the island. They also have three different brands of Belgian beer, but the prices for beer will be higher than in other places because they focus on being a snack restaurant and not a bar. Sander's emphasis lies on the quality of the food: "I have invested a lot of money in good appliances to make sure that I can serve my clients good quality food." He himself adores good food and often goes to the gourmet restaurants on Bonaire. Thus it is not surprising that the description of the hamburger made of 100% beef and freshly toasted bread makes your mouth water.

Sander and Rudd are as proud of their food as they are of the snack bar itself, but they admit, "It was one of the biggest challenges, to turn that house into what we have now." One can only imagine what Sander and Rudd accomplished since October, turning a crumbling house into a modern snack bar. The whole façade as well as the benches and tables on the inside are painted a bright yellow. The high ceiling gives a feeling of space, and the benches outside and the roof are painted in the Belgian colors of red, yellow, and black. For the little guests they have a special kids corner with swings and a trampoline in the garden and a kid's menu. For them it is important that the clients feel welcome and they provide plenty of parking spaces for their guests.

They do not consider the location in Antriol as a disadvantage and they have not had any bad experiences, contrary to the reputation Antriol has. Rather, they have built a good relationship with the locals. "Everyone here is friendly and we've had some nice reactions to our new snack bar." They are also employing four Bonaireans to work behind the counter and hope that this will contribute to the good atmosphere. Sander and Rudd are looking forward to opening the *Vlaamse Frites Huis* this week and they are hoping that the guests will appreciate the good quality of the food for affordable prices, the friendly atmosphere and the social interaction. ■ *Story & photo by Cathrin Jerie*

**"Het Vlaamse Frites Huis" (The Flemish Fries House), Kaya Korona 69,  
Opening hours Wednesday till Sunday: 11:30 am-10 pm,  
Friday and Saturday until 11 pm**



# Guest Editorial

## Increased Poverty in The Caribbean Netherlands is a Direct Consequence of the Constitutional Status Change

A couple of weeks ago, the findings of the Ecorys buying power research on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius were published. Anyone who has read the newspapers on these findings now knows: the reduced purchasing power on the islands is their own fault. The Netherlands' paid research came to the conclusion the Dutch government wanted: the fall in purchasing power has nothing to do with the transition to the Netherlands. Supported by this result, the government washed its hands in innocence and dismisses poverty reduction measures to local governments.

A further analysis of the Ecorys report shows that the findings of the research are not consistent with figures that can be found in the report. The figures show for example, that revenues from indirect taxes (ABB and excise duties) increased by 73%. The increase is a direct result of the new tax system introduced by the Netherlands. In its report, Ecorys indicates that ABB and Excise Duties have a fairly direct impact on prices. But with artificial arguments, which do not take the much higher yield of ABB and Excise Duties into account, it is concluded that the new tax system hardly had an effect on prices. A conclusion that is more convenient for the Dutch government.

The Ecorys report also mentions that the combined burden of taxes and social premiums has soared from 25.7% of GDP in 2010 to 32.6% in 2011. This is an increase of 7 percentage points in one year. The combined burden thus is 27% higher than in 2010. Without dispute, such an explosive rise has a huge negative effect on purchasing power. The government attributes this increase to improved tax compliance, but it is highly unlikely that compliance on the islands suddenly increased so much, that the social security revenues have doubled. Improved compliance should have an effect across the board, and that is not so. Despite its observation that many people on the islands have a higher gross income, the government now expects income tax yields to be 17 - 42% lower than estimations. This is inconsistent with improved compliance and that makes the conclusion implausible that improved compliance was the cause of the much higher revenues.

It is much more likely that the explosive increase of the collective burden is caused by setting the tax rates too high. An error that indeed is a result of the new tax and social security systems introduced by Dutch government. A finding like this is bad news for the government. If the government recognizes that the new tax and benefit systems caused a sharp reduction in purchasing power in the Caribbean Netherlands, it would be obliged to do something to restore purchasing power. In times of austerity that does not look good. Buying a desired research outcome is a lot cheaper.

One and a half years ago, the government concluded that a rise of the collective burden on the islands would be undesirable. The capacity of the population is low and the provision level is much lower than in The Netherlands. But an increase of the burden by 27% all of a sudden is no problem. To justify the increased tax burden ministers now play swords with tens of millions spent on the Caribbean islands. They are throwing money indeed, but the people of the islands hardly notice it.

Bonaire does have the most expensive and luxurious tax office in the Caribbean. Soon the construction of the new prison will start; a prison badly needed. The crime rate is rising as fast as the tax burden. ■

*Wietze Koopman*



Facebook photo

Wietze Koopman

## DiBo Bonaire Gay Advocacy

When you are 'like everybody else' – as far as that's possible – even then life can be surprisingly hard at times. But when you're 'different' in a place that doesn't understand or tolerate the fact that you are not like the others, life can be really hard.

Two years ago Lloyd Obispo was approached by FOKO, Curaçao Pride Foundation, and they started talking about setting up a LGTBI – a lesbian, gay, transsexual, bisexual and intersexual – organization on Bonaire. Also, in that same year, 2010, there was a meeting on Curaçao in which



Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Martin and Saba joined together in the 'Pink Orange Alliance' of the Dutch Caribbean LGTBI organizations. Alas, Statia is still not in. Nobody dares to represent the organization.

Last year Lloyd Obispo started a fundraising campaign and with the money he

earned DiBo was notarized on Bonaire on July 15th, 2011.

DiBo stands for Diversity Bonaire. DiBO works with all cultures, all sex workers and everybody who is not heterosexual. DiBo also organizes workshops and projects involving human rights.

Lloyd Obispo explains: "The purpose of DiBo is to establish awareness about the LGTBI community because there is a lot of discrimination and people are afraid of coming out. Family and friends are scared of the taboo. Many people still believe that a heterosexual relationship is the only relationship and they discriminate against people who are different. So, when you are different – not heterosexual – it's a very difficult life. Nobody accepts you and it makes you lonely. Depression sets in and alcohol and drugs kick in because people want to escape from the reality of life.

Many have left the island because they needed to be who they are and here they had to deal with a lack of friends or family support, discrimination, difficulties in getting work and keeping their jobs, and at school they were bullied. Most of them are in Holland and they've built up a better life and they don't want to come back.

This organization wants to fight for our rights. It also wants to keep the people here. We want to fight discrimination, we want to make sure that people can have a good education, that they can have a job that they like and that they have the possibility of a same-sex marriage. The law is there now and the LGTBI community can get married on this island, but for DiBo it's not enough because there are still issues to address like bullying and beatings on the streets, bullying at school and discrimina-

(Continued on page 8)

# Choose Your Helmet

Thumbs up for Amado , Kim and Stanley Reina

This is the fifth of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.



Bonaire/Hato –

In this week's *Bonaire Reporter* edition two topics about helmets: the full face helmet and the laborers' safety helmet.

So, on a regular basis, I hear a thick four-stroke, single-cylinder passing by on the Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot in Hato. One day I was working in the garden and I heard the heavy sound again. I ran to the street and tried to stop the vehicle. And it stopped. It was Amado Vrieswijk who drove the Yamaha YFZ450F quad, a powerful, modern, blue-liquid-cooled, open-air four-wheeler. And behind him sat Kim Prenger and they both wore full face helmets, the best protection you can get. And yes, they knew Timo and Victor and no, they did not have any problem with a photograph of them wearing helmets. Thumbs up for Amado and Kim, two young and vivid Bo-



naireans, wearing full face helmets. They seem to understand that you can repair or replace an arm or a leg. Replacing a head is something completely different! A full face helmet definitely gives you the very best protection. All parts of your head are optimally protected. Some older full-face helmets are a little bit heavy and air ventilation is not as good as in other helmets.

A couple of days later, Monday June 25, I drove my motorcycle over the Kaya Industria. A gentleman parked his brand new Kishbee RS Peugeot scooter (Dutch for moped). A nice and handy and clean and economical small, fuel-powered, two-wheeler. And the driver wore a white safety helmet!

So I stopped and parked my bike next to the Peugeot and I introduced myself. I informed the gentleman about my intentions. A picture in the newspaper to pay attention to the importance of wearing a helmet. No problem! The name of this no nonsense gentleman? Stanley Reina from Nikiboko, the proud owner of a nice scooter! Of course the white safety helmet of Stanley is not as safe as the full face helmets of Amado and Kim, as it is not designed for road use and there is no chin strap. However, Stanley is literally way ahead compared to loads of others only using a cap or their hair to protect themselves. Thumbs up for Stanley!

Story & Photos by J@n Brouwer

DiBo (Continued from page 7)

tion at work.

On Bonaire the situation is worse than on Curaçao because here it's a small community and you cannot be anonymous. Also on Curaçao it's more accepted. For the LGTBI community it's a long process because the family needs to get counseling. They also suffer because they don't understand. The teenager comes to us and after talking to him or her we get approval to talk to the parents about his or her sexuality. So, first we talk to the child, then to the parents and then to the other family members. It's a way of counseling that takes time to process. It also takes a lot of energy and it's not easy for the parties involved. When I grew up here on the island I went through a lot of the same issues with family acceptance. So, I know what I am talking about. I've been dealing with this personally.

DiBo consists of three people, but FOKO is guiding us and all the other islands are helping us with instructions and advice. The Pink Orange Alliance is working in cooperation with COC (the Dutch Association for the integration of gay sexuality) to provide all the islands within the Dutch territory with funds for each island so that we can work with schools and other groups

that work with the LGTBI community and sex workers.

August this year we will begin with projects in the SGB high school, starting with the 30 human rights. It's a pilot project of one year so we can see how people react and what more is needed.

Another project is to make people aware of what HIV is (yes, many people still don't know) and how to get protected and to get rid of the stigma that involves all the other sexual transmitted diseases. We are currently working on a condom machine for the island. It's planned for all the islands in the Dutch territory. Saba, the smallest of them all, already has one and it's selling 1,500 condoms a week.

It's difficult to be different for any child, wherever they live, but to be born on a small island in a macho culture makes it more difficult. However, now the kids can come to us and hopefully we can make life better for them. This is a start. On July 15th we will have had one year, and I'm hoping the school project will have a great impact on the years to come. We will make it happen! And yes, volunteers are always welcome and so are donations!

For more info contact Elmond Obispo, [human.rights.bonaire@live.com](mailto:human.rights.bonaire@live.com) ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

# Arts & Crafts Happy Hour

'HAPPY MUSIC, LOCAL FOOD AND DRINKS, ARTS, CRAFTS AND SOUVENIRS'

Even though the cruise ships are not coming back until November, the creative people of the Arts and Crafts Market have decided to keep the market going. Not the entire cruise ship market, but 12 die-hards made a deal with El Mundo restaurant on Kaya Grandi and together they offer the public every Friday from 5 to 9 pm, happy music, great barbecue, drinks for a happy hour price and the opportunity to buy arts and crafts and souvenirs, all locally made. It's a great place to spend a couple of hours on Friday evening, to take your visiting friends and family and for tourists to buy locally made souvenirs. And as it is the quiet season, the artists love to take the time to explain about their work.

In this edition of *The Reporter* and the following ones we will introduce the people who are part of this market, the people who give Bonaire a much needed extra dimension on Friday night.

Dion says, "I've lived on Bonaire since 2008 and this is my fourth season at the market. In Holland I worked for 30 years in psychiatry, and when I came here I had more time for my hobbies. Since I was four years old I was always into clay, painting and drawing and wood working, and I've kept it up all through my life. When we came here we went to live in the kunuku as my husband wanted to do something with agriculture. He has a plow and a cultivator and he helps people out with his machines as well. On Bonaire we changed our life style completely. Instead of just working we make time to do the things we enjoy, but, we have to live off it, we're not retired! I've made sculptures since the 70s. In 1982 I lived on Curaçao where I met a French artist who made enormous statues of big ladies, and together with a friend I started doing the same, but small ones. I still make those little 'big' ladies, but I also make faces, dolls, toys and caterpillars from gourds and donkeys, flamingos and iguanas out of clay and at the last cruise ship market I sold driftwood art as well.

To me, this is a very cozy market and a social happening as well. At my table I have an empty chair and someone always comes to sit in it: friends or acquaintances, clients or people who just want to chat. I've heard many life stories this way and it makes it special and different and it gives it a very friendly and pleasant dimension. And one more thing... if I may say so, here on Bonaire, I feel like I'm in paradise!"

Across from Dion there's Dymphie. "I came to Bonaire in 2005 and I just had my first season at the market. I started Jody's Fashion when I came here, a shop at home



Dymphie



Dion

where I was (and still am) selling fashion from Europe. I've done that for years now and because I always have to be home in the afternoon when the shop is open, I started making bracelets and necklaces, wallets and cell phone pouches, handbags, key holders and business card pouches from the inner tubes of motor bikes and bicycles. Recycling is the word and it's getting bigger and of course there are plenty of inner tubes here on the island and it's getting harder to dispose of them in an eco-friendly way. Max Cecilia, who has a tire shop, keeps the inner tubes for me and every week I go and collect tubes from bicycles, scooters and motor bikes at Macho, the Freewieler and at Orlando's. They also think it's a good plan! I showed them the things I made and they couldn't believe I had created them out of those dirty inner tubes – because inside the tubes are a dirty mess and cleaning them takes most of my time! The key chains I make with a djucu seed, a 'lucky nut' from Venezuela that washes ashore on Bonaire. Since a week ago we have a new project. We're making a Lora out of a scooter tire, and when the cruise ship market starts again I will tell the tourists all about our unique and beautiful parrot.

The market is great. We help each other, we have fun together and lots of tourists tell us we're the best in the region. We're varied and authentic. Also many local people are interested in what we're doing here and every month the Ladies Club from Tera Kora comes to visit. I love Bonaire and it's wonderful to live here!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



# "Dive Legends" Enliven Divi

The Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino hosted its celebration of the Bonaire's hospitality industry. The event honored dive industry legends who were associated with the resort during those years. By their reckoning the industry is 60 years old.

Island residents and hotel guests had a chance to party and dive with industry "Legends" during the week of June 16-23. Some of the hotel's past dive operators & dive masters including Peter Hughes, Alan Jardine, Harry Ward, Craig Burns and Max Hillier joined in the celebration. Highlights included a Meet & Greet Rum Punch Party at the Dive Terrace with band followed by a BBQ, a reception at the Flamingo's Nest and Ribbon Cutting at the Peter Hughes Meeting Room and more.

According to island records tourists started to visit the island when the island government constructed the first pier in the harbor in 1940. If you count the start in 1940, then Bonaire's hospitality industry is 72 years old! Captain Don says it's 39 years old for dive tourism. See letter to the editor below for that calculation.

After the Second World War, the deserted Nazi internment camps (where wooden shacks confined 461 inmates between 1940 and 1947; but that could hardly be called hospitality) were converted into the Hotel Zeebad, and the wooden shacks were replaced by charming stone bungalows. It was owned by American John Bogart.

In August, 1952, the late L.D. Gerharts, opened the Hotel Zeebad as Bonaire's first dive hotel. In the years that followed the hotel's name changed to the Flamingo Beach Club and in 1975 the resort was purchased by the Divi Divi group. This became what is now the Divi Flamingo Hotel. ■ Press release/G.D



A few of the men and women who helped pioneer diving on Bonaire at the "60-year" celebration



Elected officials and dignitaries attended the event. Above are Commissioner Burney el Hage, RCN head Wilber Stolte and Bonaire resident Ruud Vermeulen.



For years Cynthia and Bob Tseng of Westchester Divers brought down dive groups who filled Bonaire hotels run by the "legends."



To: Regional Sales Manager, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort  
Copy to Editor, *The Bonaire Reporter*

My hobby is writing pulp fiction. I'm told that I'm rather good at it. However, when designing a story the truth sometimes gets in the way, leaving me to invent whatever sort of history I choose to make a good plausible yarn

You apparently have found that art.

Specifically: "Divi Flamingo is celebrating 60 years in Bonaire." When later in your release you said Divi bought the Flamingo in 1975, then on Boxing Day that same year Peter Hughes joined the Divi. 2012 minus 1975 is 39 years. Thirty-nine subtracted from 60 leaves us 21 years of wonderment. Even a pulp writer has to close that gap in some way. Ah. Of course. LD Gerharts was housing divers in 1952, thus making Zee Bad the first diving emporium on Bonaire. But August 2, 1952, from April 15<sup>th</sup> 2012, still isn't 60 years. You sound like a very nice person but I have to ask you, **why are you stealing my thunder?**

On May 21<sup>st</sup> 2012, that is 18,250 days plus a few leap year days, myself or my team had put divers into Bonaire's reefs for 50 years.

We have not missed a single day. Storm, hurricane or even Lenny we dove...

Peter Hughes is a friend. But he is not magic as is Walli Wiggins and his Divi People. How can you claim 60 years when it is only 39? With all your illusionary inventing Divi has really spent only from December 26, 1973, to now, 2012. Total: 39 years.

don/



Captain Don and Peter Hughes

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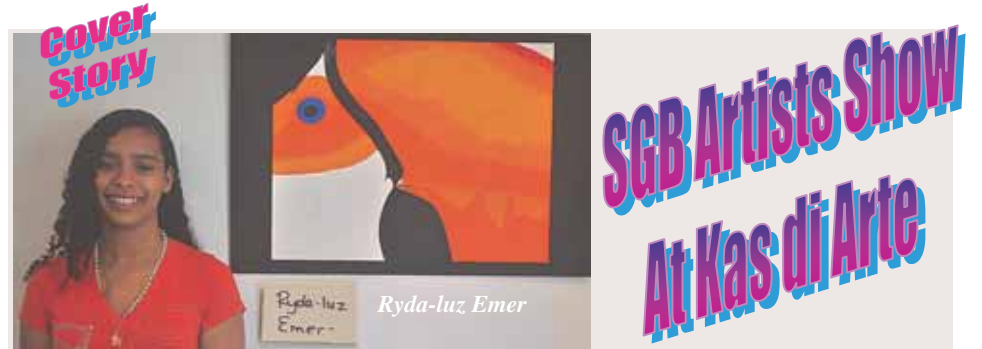
# Sailing Success At Sorobon



**Instructor Ton Nuijten of the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA) with the students who passed their sailing qualifications**

Last weekend at Sorobon 24 young members of the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA) took their exams for Youth Sailing Class 1, 2 and 3 or Dinghy Sailing 2 and 3. Despite the fierce wind all students passed. Fifteen-year-old Ruben van Eldik was the pride of the club because he passed Dinghy Sailing 3 *cum laude*. This makes him only one level away from the instructor certificate. According to instructor Ton Nuijten one thing that makes sailing in Bonaire more difficult than in the Netherlands is the strength of wind. "Most classes here are sailed with wind force five or six while Dutch kids in Holland are not allowed to go sailing with so much wind."

During the busy weekend of camping and barbecues at Sorobon, the students proved themselves capable in the Optimist or Sunfish classes and sailed directly to their diplomas. Instructor Ton Nuijten handed out the diplomas on Sunday, June 24th. In his speech he gave every sailor a compliment and advice about what to work on and thanked the volunteers who keep BSSA running: "Without the commitment of all the enthusiastic members this would not have been possible. Thanks to everyone for taking care of the activities and food." ■ *Press release/G.D.*



On June 24 the SGB the Annual Young Talent Art Show opened at Kas di Arte. The best, the most beautiful and most inspired artworks that were made in the art classes this year were shown. Dozens of examples of drawing, painting, sculpture and even video art were on display. Congratulations to SGB teacher Karine de Wit for a great show and thanks to Rotary for sponsorship. ■ *G.D.*



**Karine de Wit bracketed by her student's art**



**Sarah-ann Maartense**



**Video Art**



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# Bonaire Debut of COTW

Fresh from a first place win at the Aruba Film festival the feature-length film documentary, "Children Of The Wind," had a preview showing last week for the press and Bonaire islanders associated with the movie. The film tells the story of the transition of Bonaire youngsters from humble fishermen to windsurfing superstars who transformed the sport. It's a gripping story of victory over adversity seen through the eyes of three appealing and charming young men, brothers Tonky and Taty Frans and their cousin Kiri Thodé. It is superbly and professionally well made, and makes the complexities of freestyle windsurfing understandable and entertaining.

The Bonaire audience appreciated the film's convergence of the support the boys got from family and friends and the vision of fellow Bonaireans. It made apparent the evolution of Bonaire's seafaring tradition from fishermen to freighter crews to today's stars in a sport once considered only for the elite.

The story of "Children Of The Wind" began in May 2009 when father and daughter Daphne Schmon and Robert McCormick (avid windsurfers and artists) founded Seek Films in New York to produce original and bold documentaries that inspire social change. This film is the result.

But it is not just a story of sport personalities. The film relates how windsurfing on Bonaire might have remained just another island water sport if it weren't for lanky Elvis Martinus. Born into a fishing family Elvis' focus was always on the sea. His dream, almost from the start of his windsurfing experience, was to exploit the ideal maritime environment of the island for windsurfing and provide an avenue Bonaire youngsters could take to success. Combining his experience as a karate instructor and with friend and Olympic windsurfing vet-

eran, Patun Saragoza, he started the Aquaspeed Club for local youngsters.

In 2001, Aquaspeed raised enough money through grass root fundraising to send a large team to a championship windsurfing event in Florida. The kids blew away the competition, taking home an unprecedented 20 trophies, an extraordinary achievement for our tiny Caribbean island.

The film wasn't all sweetness and light when it related the rough side of the path that brothers Tonky and Taty travelled to success. In an emotional scene Taty related his experience at seven years old when the police raided his parents home and tore up his bed to search for drugs. The boys then lived with their grandparents from then on.

Those days of learning to sail on cast off equipment are long gone. Today the Frans brothers, Kiri and numerous other Bonaire children are often sponsored by the manufacturers of windsurfing gear and the boys even help design new boards and accessories. The film makes it clear how Bonaire continues to produce young champions of every age, and even invent the ProKids Class and Championship. This year's championship event is in Bonaire from the 2-5 of August.

The film will not be released until it has been judged in two of the world's most prestigious film festivals in the fall, Toronto and Amsterdam. It remains to be seen if the beautifully filmed message of how powerful change can result when children, fired with passion and determination, provided with love and competence, can achieve success will influence the judges to award "Children of the Wind" a medal.

"Children of the Wind," by Seek Films, has been funded predominantly by sponsors, grants, and donations through their fiscal sponsor, From the Heart Productions. It was shot on location in Bonaire and Germany. Co-



Film makers, supporters and friends get together after the showing

Creator/Producer is Robert McCormick, Co-Creator/Director of Photography Peter Robinson, Co-Creator/Director Daphne Schmon, Media Manager/Assistant Cinematographer Alex Campbell and Principal Photographer/

Assistant Cinematographer Richard Schmon. To view the trailer of "Children of the Wind," visit <http://www.childrenofthewindmovie.com/trailer.htm>. ■ G.D.



Key figures in the lives of the young windsurfers: Taty and Tonky's grandparents, Chana and Doei Diaz, Ismael Soliano and Hugo Gerharts

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**The Tung Fung Store** is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stock so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

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cludes -New Mainsail and Genoa 2008,  
Mercury 6 HP outboard -Asking  
\$6500. Contact email  
[ianinbc@shaw.ca](mailto:ianinbc@shaw.ca) Pictures in Febru-  
ary issues of *the Bonaire Reporter*

**Hayward pool pump.** 1.5 HP. 110/220  
volt 50 hz. In very good condition \$150  
Call **717-8819** 8 am to 5 pm

**SALE / TA BENDE 10 x duiktank** te  
koop \$65-80, alleen grote flessen.  
regulator \$225, fins \$25, pockets. wa-  
ter jugs 2/4/8 liter. Books \$2,- **Kaya  
Utrecht 25, Hato. from 5-7.** Naam  
vorige eigenaar bekend, verhuisd.

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een duik, tuintekening of etentje?  
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scopes to find?** Exchange for a swim,  
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90cm wide, 53 deep  
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jigsaw puzzle top. \$35  
Call **788-7919**



**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
Wed 04	00:32 1.11 ft	09:22 -0.30 ft	14:52 A 0.16 ft	18:30 0.11 ft		06:15	19:04
Thu 05	01:27 1.01 ft	10:09 -0.30 ft	15:59 0.27 ft	20:04 0.19 ft		06:16	19:04
Fri 06	02:23 0.90 ft	10:50 -0.29 ft	16:52 0.40 ft	21:45 0.23 ft		06:16	19:04
Sat 07	03:20 0.77 ft	11:29 -0.26 ft	17:37 0.52 ft	23:20 0.23 ft		06:16	19:04
Sun 08	04:16 0.64 ft	12:03 -0.22 ft	18:18 0.63 ft			06:16	19:04
Mon 09		00:45 0.19 ft	05:12 0.52 ft	12:35 -0.18 ft	18:55 0.72 ft	06:17	19:05
Tue 10	Last Quarter	01:59 0.14 ft	06:07 0.40 ft	13:02 -0.13 ft	19:31 0.80 ft	06:17	19:05
Wed 11		03:05 0.09 ft	07:00 0.31 ft	13:27 -0.09 ft	20:05 0.85 ft	06:17	19:05
Thu 12		04:05 0.04 ft	07:52 0.22 ft	13:48 -0.06 ft	20:38 0.89 ft	06:17	19:05
Fri 13		05:02 -0.00 ft	08:43 0.15 ft	14:06 -0.03 ft	21:11 0.92 ft	06:18	19:05
Sat 14		05:58 -0.04 ft	09:38 0.10 ft	14:19 -0.00 ft	21:45 0.93 ft	06:18	19:04
Sun 15		06:54 -0.07 ft	10:41 0.05 ft	14:25 0.01 ft	22:20 0.94 ft	06:18	19:04
Mon 16		07:48 -0.09 ft	12:17 0.03 ft	14:08 0.02 ft	22:55 0.93 ft	06:19	19:04
Tue 17		08:37 -0.11 ft	23:32 0.91 ft			06:19	19:04
Wed 18		09:19 -0.12 ft				06:19	19:04
Thu 19	00:11 0.87 ft	09:51 -0.12 ft		New Moon		06:19	19:04
Fri 20	00:53 0.82 ft	10:14 -0.12 ft				06:20	19:04

**Wanted used items:** Books, house-  
hold items, shoes, clothes & books for  
dare to Care One Dollar Shop at Bonaire's  
only playground - To donate pls.  
call **Vicky - 786-4576**

**Ocean-going sailboat/yacht for sale-  
\$15,900 see page 17**

*Bonaire On Wheels (Continued from page 6)*  
and gold trim. Seats and suspension are super  
smooth. Of course it takes a lot of energy to  
move this vehicle and to run all electric fea-  
tures: electric chairs, electric windows, electric  
fans and a lot of lights.

When I open the bonnet I discover a huge  
Ford V8-engine in between a bunch of pipes,  
hoses, lines and wires. This powerful and  
smooth running V8 is equipped with two big  
alternators to supply the electricity to the limou-  
sine.

Wout and Shirley Zeeman are the proud own-  
ers of Zeeko Enterprise and of this white Lin-  
coln limousine. The regular driver is Shirley.  
She has a nice and neat white driver's uniform  
and she is still looking for an official driver's  
cap to complete her outfit. According to Shirley  
the limousine is easy to drive and cornering one  
of our three roundabouts appears not to be  
really a problem. Shirley is not a shy person,  
but I preferred to shoot some pictures of the  
stretched new beauty with Bianca, the new and  
very good looking employee of Zeeko Enter-  
prises. The combination really is a lust for the  
eye: the just cleaned Ford Lincoln, dressed in  
white, and the adorable Bianca (which means  
"white"/*jb*) dressed in black. Both, Bianca and  
the Lincoln, are new on the island of Bonaire  
and they both feel comfortable and at home.

The limousine is for sale and for rent, for rent  
by the hour. Shirley already  
has done several trips and  
up until now she apparently  
rounded all roundabouts  
without any problems. No  
scratches, no dents. Have  
fun all of you! ■ *Story &  
Photo by J@n Brouwer*



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# Dive Friends/RBC Clean Up



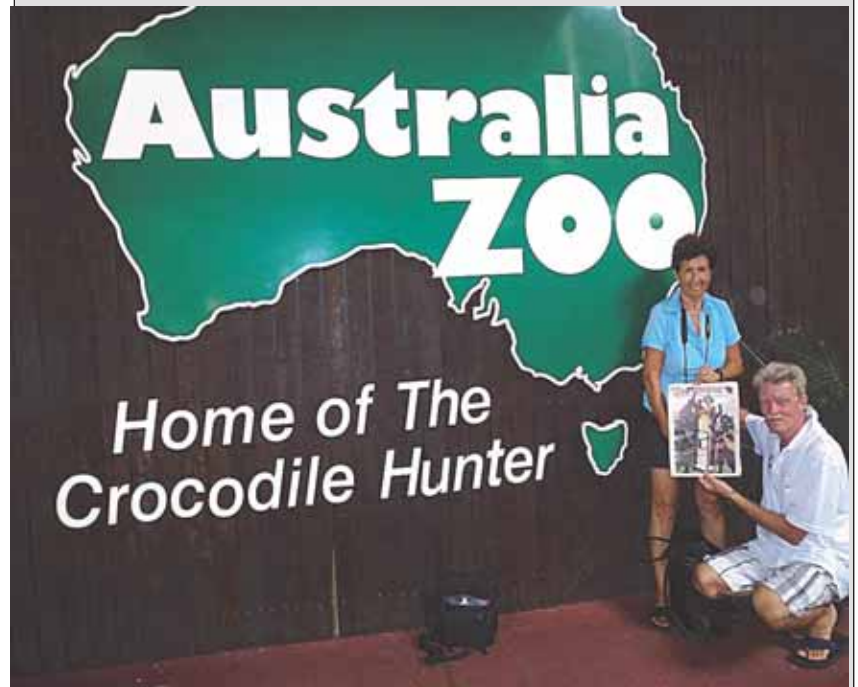
## Bonaire/Te Amo Beach –

On Saturday, June 16, Dive Friends of Bonaire organized an extra clean up dive. It was the RBC Royal Bank which fully supported the event. Briefing was at the Port Bonaire location of Dive Friends of Bonaire, near the Flamingo airport. Target was the Te Amo Beach in between the fuel jetty pier from the airport and the harbor entrance near Plaza. 62 volunteers showed up to spend some of their free weekend time to clean the underwater world. Again a lot of trash was collected. Especially miles of fishing line. After the dive all

trash was registered. With the cooperation of all kinds of volunteers and foundations a final statement was made about pollution and suggestions on how to decrease pollution under and above sea level.

At around six a free barbecue was organized at the Yellow Submarine location of Dive Friends of Bonaire at Playa Lechi. Everything was financially supported by the RBC Royal Bank. On behalf of the fish and the turtles: Thank you RBC, thank you employees of Dive Friends, thank you all divers! Let's go for a better world. ■ *Photo & story by J@n Brouwer*

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Australia



Guus and Jeanine van der Sluis who live on Bonaire and went on holiday to Queensland, Australia and took *The Bonaire Reporter*. They also took three great photos but space limits permits us to print only one. One was at the Australian Zoo in Brisbane (Beerwah). Steve Irwin, who died in 2006, gained worldwide recognition by TV Channel Animal Planet as "the Crocodile Hunter." His wife, Terry Irwin, is now running the park. The Zoo has over 1200 animals. You can see a beautiful bird show, cuddle a koala, feed elephants, see tigers play and watch a crocodile launch itself from the water. It also has an African Safari Park.

Australian Zoo participates in breeding programs of several endangered species and has a veterinary hospital, which you also can visit. It continues Steve's dream each day. (Crikey!) ■

## WE NEED PHOTOS!

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!** Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. **Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand.**

**THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.**

Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch

## 2011 Bonaire Sea Turtle Research & Monitoring Report

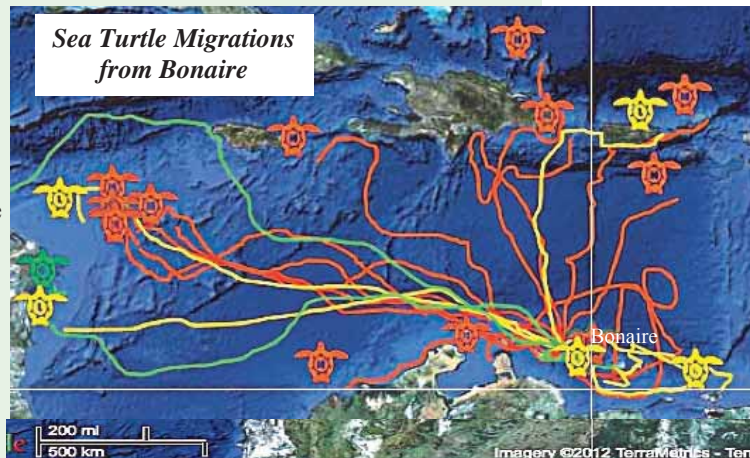
In 2011, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire completed its ninth year of systematic research on the sea turtles of Bonaire. The report covers the methods and results of STCB's research and monitoring activities, which include:

**Nesting beach monitoring:** tracking turtle nesting activity, determining nest size and productivity, and estimation of the number of hatchlings produced.

**Foraging ground surveys:** tagging, measuring and photographing individual turtles and establishing relative measures of turtle abundance. Inspection of captured turtles for signs of disease or injury. Recapture of previously tagged turtles provides valuable insight into turtle residency duration, recruitment, home range, growth rates, and habitat quality.

**Satellite telemetry:** Identification of the migration paths and distant feeding grounds used by our breeding and nesting turtles. (see graphic at right ⇨)

Read the full report at: <http://www.bonaireturtles.org/explore/publications/> ■ *Press release*



Measuring the size of a turtle's shell

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*Bonaire Reporter- July 6-20, 2012*

# Sewage Treatment Plant Tour

**MNO** Vervat, the engineering company responsible for tearing up Bonaire's roads, up to 1/4 km. inland, from Hato through Belnem, to install sewer lines, opened the partially completed sewage treatment plant on Lagoen Road to the public on Saturday, June 23. Tours were available to explain the reasons for the roadwork and let the public learn about the operation of the system. There was free barbecue, drinks, and music. Speeches were at a minimum.

The primary reason for spending \$35 million plus for the sewage system is unique on the planet. It's not for the usual public health and sanitation reasons, although that will improve, but to preserve Bonaire's coral reef. Since the 1990s environmentalists have been warning that pollution from the nutrients in the toilet waste of shorefront facilities were causing algae growth that was detrimental to the coral reef. Most Bonaire waste was going into the soil and leeching through the island's limestone base directly to the sea. Years of negotiation, planning and confrontation over costs were finally resolved after Bonaire became a municipality of The Netherlands in 2010 and the project began in earnest.

For Bonaire the scope is monumental: 65 kilometers of sewer line, 340 major excavations, 540 sump units connected through four pumping stations to the multi-acre treatment plant at the LVV agricultural area. In contrast to the gravity-operated sewers most people are familiar with, the Bonaire system is rocket science. It begins where homes, hotels or businesses' waste connections drain into a "sump," a plastic-lined hole in the ground. Atop the sump is a clever mechanical valve which senses the amount of wastewater in the sump. When the sump is full the valve opens and a vacuum in the main sewer line sucks the waste away to ultimately end up at the LVV plant.

The vacuum design, similar to the systems in the city of Barcelona and the Sultanate of Oman, minimizes the digging required and allows the use of smaller diameter pipes. The vacuum runs 7-10 psi below atmospheric pressure (70 kPa-50kPa or 0.5-0.7 bar), enough, in the words of our tour guide, to propel the body of a dead cat to the treatment plant. It is only at the four pumping stations that electricity begins to get involved in the flow process.

The treatment plant is state-of-the-sewage art and involves multiple steps involving filtration, storage, aeration, desiccation and skimming before discharge into holding ponds. About 30% of the total output, running as high as 1,400m<sup>3</sup> per day, will be pumped back to the waterfront resorts to be used to irrigate their gardens at a cost lower than WEB's desalinated water. The returned water will be free



Mechanical vacuum valve

(Continued on page 17)



Tours in English, Papiamentu and Dutch were conducted all day.



Some of the completed infrastructure



A water test in one of the treatment tanks

**Yoskar Sarante**

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, July 7—Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon**



**Sunday, July 8 – Dia di Arte– Art Day, 20th year!** Wilhelmina Park, dancing, arts, crafts, music, creole food, drinks, 11 am to 11 pm. Big island party! Don't miss it!

**Sunday, July 15—Go Green Open House and Art Exhibit with Dr. Firas Fayarrah, 5-7 pm, Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona, #47**

**Saturday, July 21—Underwater Cleanup sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire, South Pier 10 am**

## July 27, 28, 29– Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival-

Popular stars, big names, diverse music – jazz, bachata, creole. The ambiance can't be beat: music under the stars, on the shores of the sea.

The MC is the gorgeous, talented and no-stranger-to-the-Jazz Festival, Merietza Haakmat.

**Friday night** is the opening night at the historic Ft. Oranje on the waterfront. It's Jazz and Poetry night with names from the ABC islands – Gaby Mercera Trio (Bonaire), Hershel Rosario Trio and Irma Philibert (Curaçao) and the Frankie Yanga Trio (Aruba).

**Saturday night's** Main Concert will be on the beach at Plaza with artists Rina Mushonga and her Band from Zimbabwe, Dutch saxophone player, Candy Dulfer and Bachata King, Yoska "El Prabu" Sarante from the Dominican Republic.

**On Sunday** on the "lawn" at Divi will be a free Jam Fest with Rina Mushonga and others including young talent from Bonaire. Tickets now available on the website [WWW.Bonairejazz.com](http://WWW.Bonairejazz.com). Complete details in the next edition.

**August 2—5 Prokids Windsurfing Championships at Sorobon.**

## 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 hrs 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm entrance fee 1.00 per child & 1.50 per adult. Saturdays open for free. Closed on Sundays.

### Saturdays

- **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar**, Flea market tables are \$10.00 except first Saturday of the month when they are free. Open 9 am - 2 pm. - Call Marissa - 701 1103 Everything for sale, old & new: household items, plants, baby things, clothes & shoes. Food riot, BBQ. All funds go toward maintaining the Park.
- **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-see 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. 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.
- **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

### Fridays

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

## 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

**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 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 Crisita 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 Pápago 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](mailto: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

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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## THE EVERLASTING DIGGING IS ALMOST OVER

It has been months of digging. We can say it's been more than a year since the digging started for the installation of the sewage (or *cloaca*) system on our Island. We've had to deal with the bad infrastructure that our island of Bonaire had to go through, and we still have to undergo some hardship, but just for a few months more.

Yes, fortunately it's almost over. Works have been done mostly in Playa, Belnem and Hato. But when we understand the reason why this had to take place and what we went through it's worth it. All this is to preserve the coral reefs around Bonaire. Every year thousands of tourists come to Bonaire to snorkel or to dive and enjoy the colors and the reef colonies. Our coral reefs are some of the richest and most beautiful in the waters of the Caribbean. We must also understand why these coral reefs exist. They are there not only for beauty but to keep the undersea world alive. The greatest numbers of fish that live on our reefs today are juvenile fish. These fish still need to develop and grow large. And as studies have shown, our healthy reefs are shrinking.

To protect the reefs is certainly everyone's duty. With regret in our hearts we have to say that these reefs are deteriorating. Algae is growing fast when there are too many nutrients in the water. Investigations have shown that there are more nutrients in the water than there were 10 years ago. Where are these nutrients coming from? That is right -from the waste water

from our toilets, faucets and showers, right into our septic tanks. If our septic tank is leaking it goes into the ground and into the ocean. Sometimes we use this waste water to water the plants in our yard, but the result is the same.

Studies show that the coral reefs are under great pressure. Coral reef coverage was 80% 30 to 40 years ago. Today they've diminished to 50%. Algae is taking the place of the coral more and more. Those fish that once ate the algae from coral reefs are diminishing and the young coral can't survive the pollution. The reefs are out of balance. That is a fact, and science is afraid that the coral reefs will be completely destroyed.

Together we can do it. Together we can save the coral reefs. With the new sewage system this problem can be reduced to the minimum. The sewage system built at LVV is quite a big project. Our waste water will be purified in big tanks into water for agriculture and cattle. Some of this water (30%) will be transported back to the hotels to irrigate their gardens. The system will be supervised and maintained by workers highly trained in engineering in the Dutch Kingdom. This is a multi-million dollar project, and of course it took a long time for us to come up with millions of dollars to invest in this project. This is a gift from Holland. What we have to pay back in the future for processing our waste water, as we are paying now for the trucks to collect our

waste water, is nothing compared to the investment.

MNO Vervat had an open day on the 23rd of June to explain the operating system of the project and to say that by this December the work should be over. Yes, the everlasting digging! Through July and August the digging should be almost done with more installations at LVV. During September through December the finishing jobs will be almost over: repairing and paving the roads with asphalt. In December will be the inauguration of the purification and drainage canal installations.

What a blessing this will be for our coral reefs and the future of Bonaire, for the future of our children and their offspring that they also can enjoy the wonders of our coral reefs. Remember, it is a duty of all citizens of Bonaire, no matter whether you are an inhabitant or a visitor, you own a company or an organization, it is important. If the coral reefs are healthy so are we, our children and every-

Daily digging scenes



thing around us. For more information about the plans of the sewage projects go to [www.bonaireatheart.org](http://www.bonaireatheart.org)

Story & photo by Siomara Albertus.



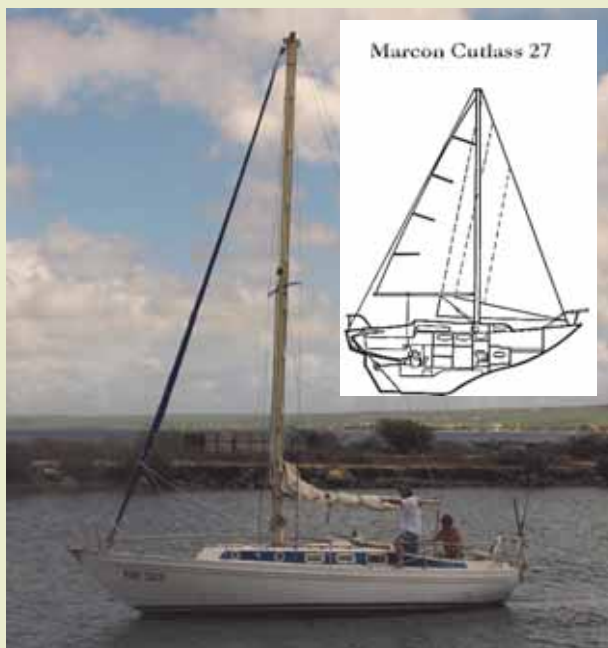
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### Sewage Plant (Continued from page 15)

of bad odor and have a low nutrient value: 5 mg. per liter (rather than the high nutrient 30 mg. per liter water) for inland agriculture and is destined for use in nearby *kunukus* and perhaps even tank-trucked to other spots during droughts). Another product of the treatment plant will be solid dried sewage sludge that will be especially beneficial for fertilization of both food crops and animal fodder crops. If this can be accomplished economically, the practice of free-ranging goats and sheep would be minimized to the benefit of native plants.

There was no way the island government would be able to afford this system if it weren't for tens of millions of dollars of subsidy from The Netherlands and the European Union.

According to Josef van Brussel, the RCN official overseeing the project, the funding goes beyond the construction

phase. "I know of no other sewage treatment project where the government will pay for private homes and businesses to connect to the system." Hookups typically run from thousands to tens of thousands of dollars. About \$2.5 million has been allocated for this.

Once operational, the day-to-day cost will be supported by low mandatory fees imposed on all households and businesses on the island, even if they are not connected to the sewer line. The collection would be administered by WEB or Selibon. The system is set to become operational in December 2012.

Islanders can determine where road-work will take place and to track the progress of completion of the plant on-line through the Island Government website [www.bonaireatheart.org](http://www.bonaireatheart.org) or in local newspapers. A flyer in Papiamentu and Dutch called *Awa Awe* is also available and updates are planned. ■ G.D

### Sudoku Puzzle

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

### Sudoku Solution

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

# Pet of the Week

To look at "Josephine" today you would never believe that she was a terrible mess when she was found in the cage ("Kouchi di Bestia") outside the entrance to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. She was skinny, had a bad case of mange, and was filthy and unkempt. But there was something special about this wire haired pup so the Shelter staff decided to try and bring her back from the nearly dead. She began the treatment for her mange with an injection followed by another one later. She was cleaned up and given lots of love and attention. At first Josephine was very shy and had no self confidence. She was at the bottom of the "pecking order" in the puppy cage. But as her mange got under control and her fur started to grow out and she gained some weight so did her self confidence. Now she's the "queen of the cage." Josephine is about six months old, has been checked out by the vet, given her shots and will be sterilized when she's old enough. The dog adoption fee of \$75 includes all that plus an identity chip. You may meet Josephine at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Don't forget to check out the Shelter website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com



Josephine and volunteer Heleen

The Shelter has boarding facilities for your dogs or cats. But it's a popular place so make your reservations early. Rates are: 1 dog - \$8.50 per day; 2 dogs in 1 kennel - \$12 per day.

1 cat - \$5.50 per day; 2 cats in 1 kennel - \$10 per day.

The proceeds of the boarding operation go towards helping to keep the Shelter open for the unwanted cats and dogs on the island.

■ Laura DeSalvo

## PET NEWS

The *Kouchi di Bestia* outside the entrance to the Shelter serves as a receiving place for people to put in unwanted dogs or cats with no questions asked. It's always there, even when the Shelter is closed and it's checked several times a day when the Shelter is open.

# Did You Know...

## Squid Can Fly!



Bob Hulse photo

Squid on the reef

Squid of many species have been seen rising out of the water and traveling for distances in the air before returning back to the ocean. To move through water, squid squirt pulses of water out of their mantles (a jet-propulsion mechanism). When close to the water's surface, squid sometimes use this mechanism to shoot out of the water and soar in the air for a short distance.

Researchers have always assumed that squid only did this to avoid predators in the water. Recently, using rapid-succession photography, researchers were able to calculate the speed of the orange-back squid traveling through air. The results were shocking because the velocity of squid in air was five times faster than any recorded velocity of squid in water.

Do squid choose 'flying' over swimming to reduce energy expenditure? This might explain how squid are able to travel distances greater than 1,000 kilometers to spawning grounds. ■ Shelby Penn, edited by Caren Eckrich

Shelby Penn is a biology major at Allegheny College. She studied at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire during the spring 2012 semester.



Shelby Penn



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The Bonaire Animal Shelter second hand store needs donations of household items, appliances, clothes, furniture, and anything else you want to get rid of. Call Paul at 787-0466 or Dabney at 717-3949 to arrange for them to pick up your



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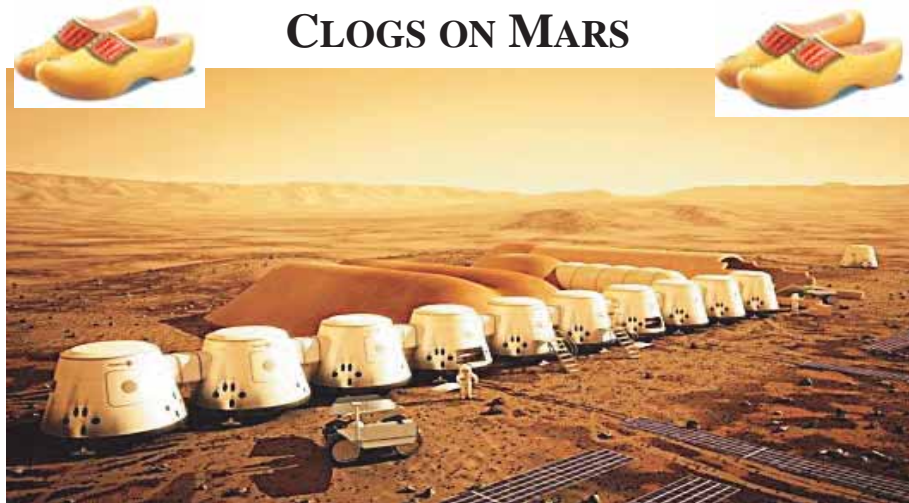
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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## CLOGS ON MARS



### A DUTCH PLAN FOR A SETTLEMENT ON THE PLANET MARS BY 2023.

Last month, a Dutch company, Mars One, announced that it hopes to send a four-person crew to Mars by 2023, a one-way mission. Mars will become the astronauts' permanent home. If the Curaçao spaceport becomes a reality they may even take off from there.

It's not clear whether this will be a scientific mission so much as a reality TV show since the company plans to finance the operation by airing the entire thing live with commercial sponsors. The privately financed Dutch company has a plan. All it needs is a lot of cash, equipment and four Mars-bound astronauts who are willing to take a one-way trip to the red planet.

The idea is to first send rovers, which will stake out a good site for a settlement and then build living units. In 2022, the crew will take a "transit habitat" for the seven-month trip to Mars and settle in to their new home. The intention is that the crew will live on the planet for the rest of their lives. Every two years after that, another group will join the settlement to populate the colony.

Mars One co-founder Bas Lansdorp has a very modern approach to funding the project: media exposure. "We will finance this mission by creating the biggest media event ever around it," he said in a company video, adding, "Everybody in the world can see everything that will happen in the preparations and on Mars."

Think of it as a "Big Brother" for outer space. Lansdorp explained to Yahoo! News, "This would be 'real' reality TV -- Adventure is automatically included. We don't have to add fake challenges." He added, "By sending a new crew every two years, Mars will have a real, growing settlement of humans. Who wouldn't like to follow that major event in human history?"

Next year, according to its website, the company will begin an astronaut selection process. Those who have the right stuff will then undergo a decade of preparation. The crew of such a mission should expect their experience, and therefore the rest of their lives, to be at least somewhat unpleasant. Given this, who in their right mind would volunteer to go?

Probably quite a few people.

When the US Navy conducted its atomic bomb tests at the Bikini Atoll in 1946, more than 90 people volunteered to man the ships stationed in the target area, so that scientists could gather data about the biological effects of the blasts. Navy researchers admitted that human test subjects would be "more satisfactory than animals," but they worried about the public-relations aspect of using people, so all were turned down.

There's also a long history of seemingly rational scientists who were willing to sacrifice their physical comfort, as well as their lives, for the sake of knowledge. And of course, memories of the successes of the Dutch East India Company. ■

Press release/G.D.



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

Mid-July 2012

**ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)** Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. Don't be too quick to judge those you live with. Recognition can be yours if you present your ideas and stand behind your beliefs. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)** Uncertainties regarding your love life will surface if you have neglected your mate. You can get ahead if you are willing to take a partner. Don't bother retaliating, just walk away. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21)** Look closely at motives and honesty in your personal encounters. Take care of your own responsibilities before you help others. You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Children may be on your mind. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Partnerships will be favorable and contracts can be signed. Have a heart-to-heart talk with family and find out what the problems are. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**LEO (July 23-Aug 22)** Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this month. Be cautious not to get involved in office chatter that will cause problems for others. You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this month. Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)** Do not expect others to do your work. Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)** You may need help with your financial situation. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Over-indulgence could lead to problems with digestion. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)** Opportunities to pamper yourself may unfold. Don't be too quick to respond to a plea for help. Your high energy will enable you to take the role of leader in group functions. You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)** Assist a relative or good friend by setting of a budget for them. It's time to let loose. You may have difficulties with foreigners. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)** Not everything you hear will be legitimate. Children could cost you more than you can afford. Someone important may be watching you from afar. Be quiet about your intentions or ideas that might bring added cash. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)** You can make profitable investments if you purchase an art object for your home. Travel will promote new romantic encounters. Don't let your friends talk you into taking time off. You'd be wise to control your spending so your debts don't get out of hand. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)** Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. Your lack of attention may have been a factor. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Your partner may not understand your mood swings but if you are willing to communicate, a lot of grief can be avoided. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday. ■

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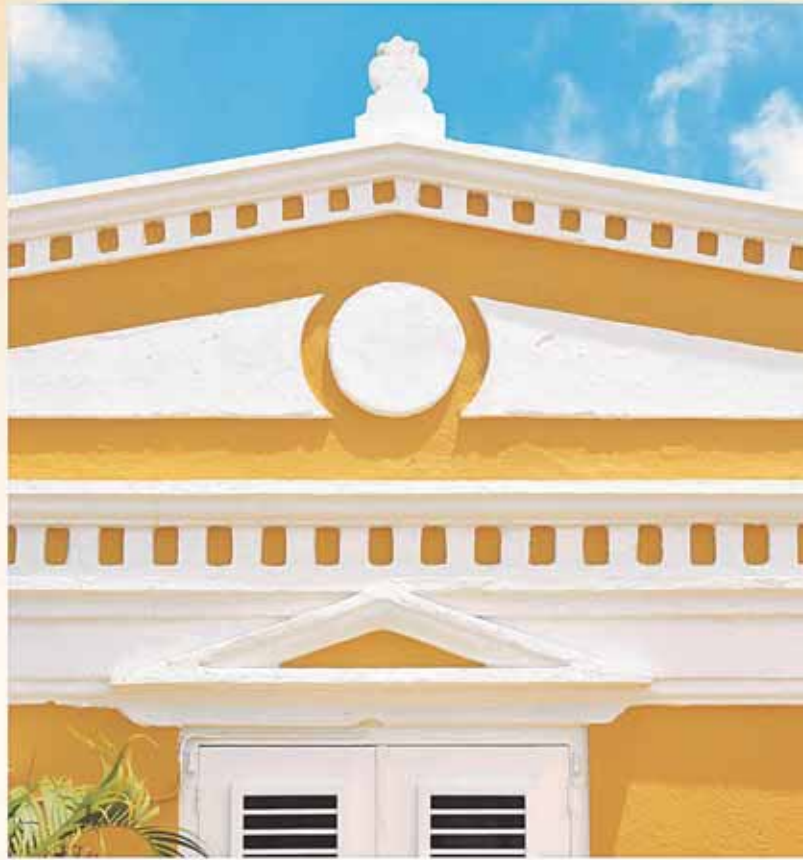
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*Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2)* attorney, Gilbert Schaffnit, told the Associated Press on Saturday that he anticipates the sentencing date to be pushed back. He declined further comment because the case is ongoing. Hours after the vice consul's disappearance, a recreational diver found his bloodstained clothes at Baya Beach, a popular site for water activities and nightlife. Police said they also found his blood on rocks leading to the water, along with an expensive kitchen knife and his cell phone. Hogan's disappearance sparked a lengthy search by the Antillean coast guard and the US Navy, but his body was never found. The investigation into his death remains open. Prosecutors accused Abby Hogan of deleting more than 300 e-mails from September 2009 to January 2010 containing information relevant to the case, including that she was having an affair and that the couple had argued about the affair the night her husband vanished. Abby Hogan remained in Curaçao until June 2010 and later moved to Florida, according to court documents. She was charged in August 2011 with perjury, witness tampering and obstruction of justice but was released that same day pending trial. *AP report*

► **The new Miss World Bonaire, Ana Maciel, was off to The Netherlands to prepare for the Miss World 2012 competition in Mon-**



Miss Bonaire Ana Maciel

**golia on August 18, 2012.** About 115 countries /regions will be competing. During her term as Miss Bonaire Ana will promote the island and serve as an example for young people.

► **Aruba's Parliament approved a US \$10 dollar-per-passenger Travel Promotion Levy (TPL)** (in addition to the departure tax) effective July 1, but not before an amendment was included to **exempt the other islands of the Dutch Caribbean, including Bonaire.**

► **There is a new training institute in Bonaire, "Knowledge Opens Doors, Education, Training and Courses."** It was established by Mrs. Helen Hoen who has lived and worked for 11 years on Bonaire. She has 36 years of teaching experience. The courses, aimed at adults, are vocational and

college level. Students take Dutch exams and receive a diploma from the Netherlands. For information please contact: KOD-Education, Training and Courses, Kaya Grandi 52 F Tel. 717-9105 or 700-8883, Email [info.opleidingenkod@gmail.com](mailto:info.opleidingenkod@gmail.com).

► **Extra newspaper editor and historian Bòi Antoin is looking for volunteers to help organize the Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano –( FuHiKuBo) library and archive.** Volunteers don't have to know Papiamentu since many documents are in Dutch but should be familiar with computer operation as well as Microsoft Word and Excel. The work is part-time and important as the archive provides a valuable resource for researchers and naturalists. Interested? Contact Bòi at e-mail [b.antoine@telbonet.an](mailto:b.antoine@telbonet.an) or call **786-6818**.

► **Wednesday nights at Zazu Bar at Bistro de Paris it's Girls' Night**—1/2 price on martinis all night, 1/2 price on wine, 3-course meal, \$25.

► **This Sunday, Dia di Arte at Wilhelmina Park.** It's an island event so don't miss it! See pg.3

► **Readers! Remember to remind the places where you shop that they should advertise in The Reporter because English is the language of bargains and business.** ⇒

## A typical double accommodation



► **"Prison Tourism" continues to grow on Bonaire.** A new penitentiary site was dedicated last week in the Aruba plantation area just east of LVV. Occupancy at the recently completed prison downtown is already 100% and it's been open less than two years.

Why do Bonaire's prisons have such high occupancy? It's because:

- Bonaire inmates in Curaçao had to be returned to their home island after 10-10-10 restructure of the Dutch Antilles.
- Saba and Statia convicts must be kept in a BES island prison. St Maarten's Pointe Blanche and Curaçao's Bon Futuro prisons were unacceptable in the new constitutional arrangement.
- In January 2011 the Bonaire Public Prosecutor's Office on Bonaire started imprisoning convicted criminals who had been left on the street because there were no cells available.
- The current spike in crime on island is giving the police more work and providing even more clients for the prison.

The Dutch Government priority in deciding to give the prisons priority over roads, infrastructure and even some educational and medical improvements is beneficial for business considering that when a prisoner's family arrives on island for a visit with their loved one they need a room, meals, travel arrangements, etc. They can't help but boost tourism totals.

And there is the addition of the contribution of the salaries of the prison staff to the economy. Although staffing figures have not been released, having one prison staff member per six prisoners is typical. The millions that will be spent on construction will be another boost to the economy, perhaps even more than a new luxury hotel. Prison Tourism, is a "Dive Plus" initiative that does not require support from the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). ■ *G./L.D.*