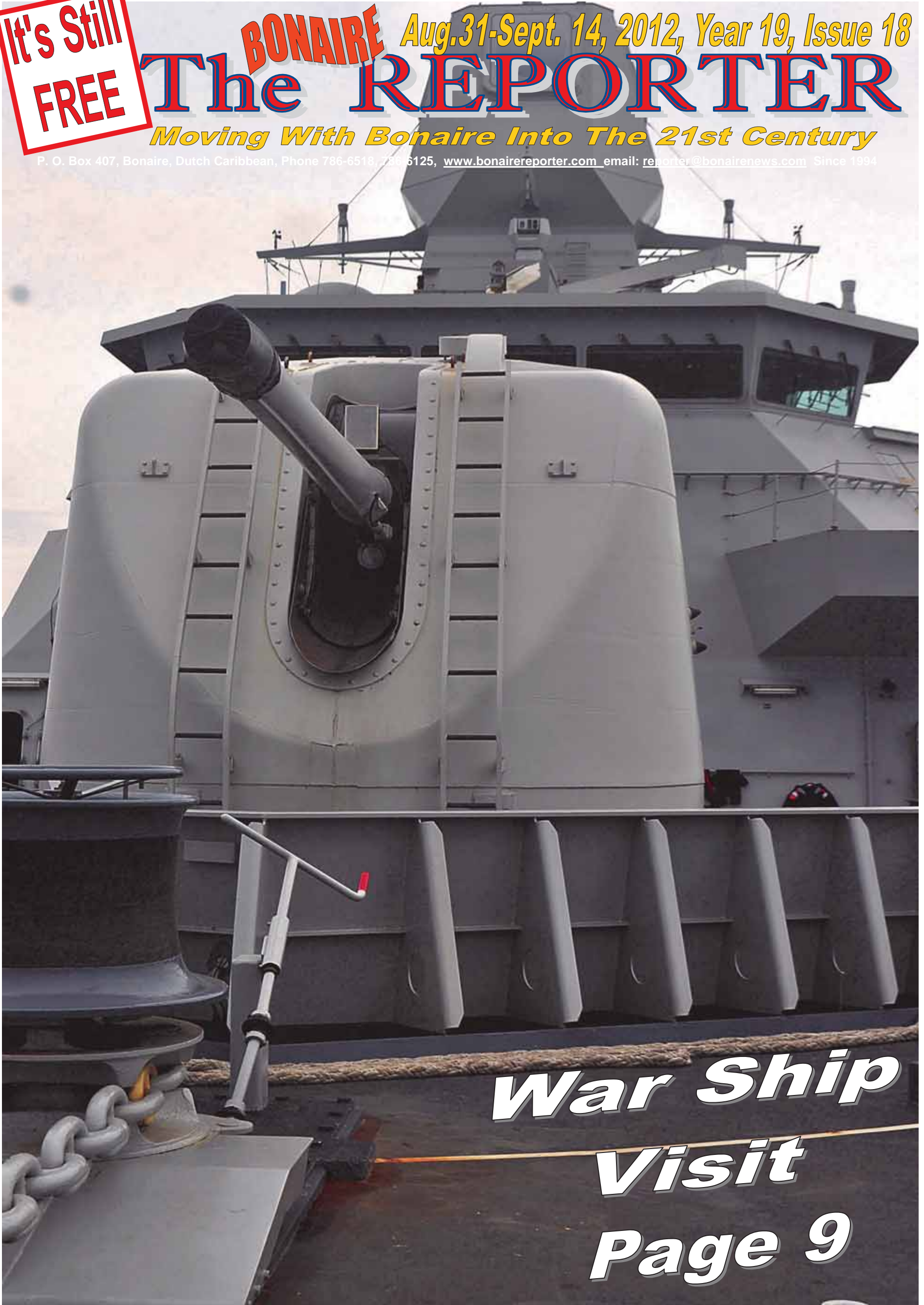


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BONAIRE Aug.31-Sept. 14, 2012, Year 19, Issue 18
The REPORTER

Moving With Bonaire Into The 21st Century

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**War Ship
Visit
Page 9**

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Bonaire Electric Rates may rise drastically as a result of the outcome of binding arbitration about what Bonaire's EcoPower electric power production plant charges WEB, Bonaire's water and electric power distribution company,

The arbitration was resolved in favor of Eco Power. WEB must pay up.

For years WEB had been paying EcoPower only a fraction of the amount that EcoPower invoiced. Two weeks ago Burney el Hage, the Bonaire Commissioner in charge of public utilities, announced the arbitration decision and called for community support to help figure out how WEB can pay the retroactive and future charges.

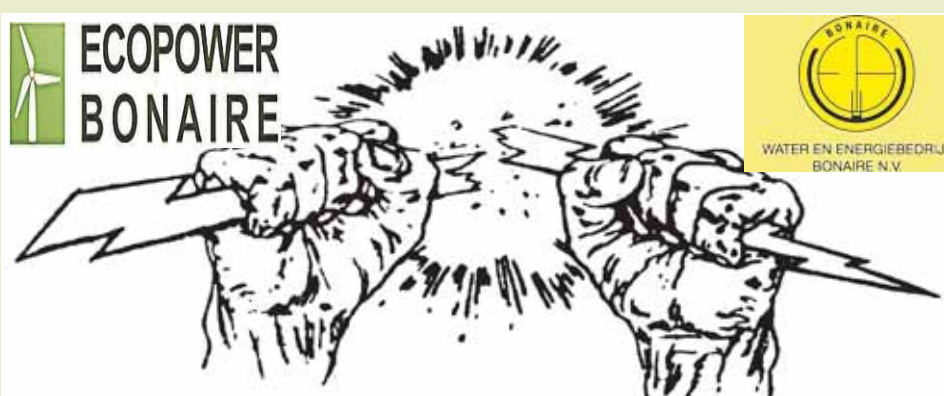
El Hage said, "It is clear that WEB cannot bear these extra burdens without fully passing these on to consumers. A preliminary calculation indicates that the electricity rates (with effects on water rates) should be increase(d) by approximately 50% to cover costs to operate WEB."

Bonaire's electric power rates are already far above the rates charged elsewhere in the Caribbean, even though 30% of its electricity comes from wind power and the EcoPower plant is the one of the most modern and efficient in the world. The average monthly bill on the adjacent island of Curaçao is about 1/3 that of Bonaire. It should be noted that the electric rates in the French Caribbean islands, which are integrated with France -similar to the way Bonaire is integrated with The Netherlands- are subsidized by the French Electric Company EDF and are the second lowest after Trinidad and Tobago. **Read more in the column at right.**

► **The Governor of Bonaire, Lydia Emerencia, intends to have an inquiry conducted into the integrity and management of the government-owned utility company WEB NV.** She wants to find out the actual reasons for the announced electricity rate increase and to gain a better insight into avoiding these problems in the future by offering a structural solution.

► **ARUBA--The rates for water and electricity in Aruba will be simultaneously reduced significantly.** The average Aruban family spends 30% of its monthly income on water and electricity. Families with the smallest incomes will benefit most. For that category, with a monthly consumption of 13-20 m3 of water, the price decreased by 44% as of August 1. For non-domestic consumers, businesses and hotels, the rate has decreased by 26%. The price of electricity will decrease by 10% on November 1.

Continued on facing page



The recent ruling of the arbitration of WEB vs. Ecopower threatens to break the back of the people and businesses of Bonaire. It has been confirmed that without drastic changes electricity rates, already the highest in the region, will increase 50%.

How did this happen? After the fire that devastated the WEB powerhouse in February, 2005, a plan was executed that provided Bonaire with a modern power plant supplemented by wind turbines. "The world's largest stand-alone, integrated hybrid wind and diesel generation power plant plus energy storage system," according to power industry publications. The people of Bonaire were led to believe their electric bills would drop, not rise.

Consider the presentation made in 2007 to the press by consultant Stijn Janssen, strategic planner and developer for Bonaire's BHM, in 1997: "... wind is the perfect solution for WEB. WEB lost big money in the '97- '04 period. After a fire at its generating plant, WEB was forced to take a new direction. They want to get the energy on a 50/50 basis: 50% should be wind, the other 50% by using bio-diesel derived from algae."

Then there were the statements made at Delta Energy Convention in 2007 about Bonaire: Richard Hart - "100% sustainable" and Stijn Janssen - "The Sustainable Island." Their presentations promised that the new plant would be:

- Much more environmentally friendly
- Much lower price of electricity for 15 years (-20 - 30%)
- Much more reliable supply (outages less than 6 hours per year)
- Financial turn around for local *Water & Electriciteitsbedrijf Bonaire (WEB)*

The expensive power plant/wind turbine construction project would be paid for by the Econcern consortium. The electricity it generated would be sold to WEB which would distribute it to consumers. But before the facilities could be completed the 2008 worldwide economic downturn hit and Econcern filed for bankruptcy. The Dutch Rabobank became the trustee of the power system. Rabobank committed to pay for the completion of the project.

Bonaire's electricity supply was in jeopardy. The "temporary" generators leased from Aggreko were wearing out and the huge new power plant, promising lower consumer cost was almost ready to go. The parties agreed to various compromises to get the plant on-line. In July 2009 even the newly appointed Crown Commissioner Henk Kamp stepped in to call a meeting to discuss getting the details of the new power system into operation. But the devil was in the details: required permits, costs, responsibilities, fuel type and supply. Everything seemed to be worked out and electricity began to flow from the diesel generators and the wind turbines.

But the power plant was not fueled by the low-cost heavy oil but by low sulfur diesel supplied by Curoil at a much higher cost. The stage was set for the present day situation when EcoPower invoiced WEB for electricity generated by the diesel fuel, but WEB paid only a fraction of the bill because it believed the existing contract allowed them to pay a lower price.

But there was more than that. According to a past BHM board member, Han de Bruijne, Hart and a faction at BHM wanted to make it fiscally hard for Ecopower so the power plant would have to be sold. The plant could then be acquired by BHM at a bargain price. But instead, as a result of the arbitration ruling, BHM and Bonaire must pay up the past due amount and pay the invoices in full.

To meet those obligations without outside help would hurt Bonaire's economy already reeling from dollarization and integration with Holland. A solution is being sought at several levels of local and Dutch government. ■

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Flotsam and Jetsam

(Continued from page 2)

► **ROTTERDAM**--Unlisted cooperative bank, **Rabobank, which is the custodian for EcoPower, booked a net profit of €1.3 billion** over the first six months of this year, down 29% on the year-earlier period. The bank said difficult market conditions were behind the decline which forced a 478 million euro write-off on the bank's property portfolio. Rabobank is one of the Dutch financial institutions currently under investigation by government officials in connection with the Libor interest rate scandal.

► Chief of the Police Corps of the Caribbean Netherlands, Jan Rooijakker, announced **an increase in acts of violence** even though the police haven't published any crime statistics lately. More violence is being used against the victims. During the Safety Market earlier this month he said, "Once the police and Royal Military Police have sufficient manpower, we can resist and control this increase of crime on the islands in the Caribbean Netherlands." "The reason why crime figures weren't published until recently was due to a change in the registration system," Rooijakker said. "But the percentage of violent offenses that have been solved is high. In almost all cases those committing violence are tracked."

► **Reinforcements for the Police Corps KPCN** have finally been arranged. By October the force should grow by seven people from the Dutch Royal Military Police who will be temporarily on Bonaire to conduct investigations. In February 2012, five officers from The Netherlands were promised to assist the police. However, so far this had not taken place. Even with these reinforcements KPCN will not yet have enough manpower.

► During his working visit to Bonaire, Caretaker State Secretary of Infrastructure and Environment, Joop Atsma, **formally opened the first container of oil spill equipment for Bonaire.** The contents of the container consisted of protective clothing, hand tools like buckets, shovels and absorbent materials

and equipment for the transport of birds. This will allow the island to quickly respond to any pollution on the coast. Ultimately the islands will be able to handle an oil spill incident up to 12,000 m³. There are also plans to provide a "current buster" for an oil spill at sea and large offshore oil booms.

► Later in the day, at the newly renovated **Boca Spelonk lighthouse**, the State Secretary ceremonially handed over the lighthouse key to local government of Bonaire. The handing over of the key is symbolic of the transfer of responsibility for the management and maintenance of the lighthouses. *Rijkswaterstaat* remains responsible for the lights of the lighthouses. See related story on page 11.

► **It seems that Dutch civil servants have been travelling excessively to the islands.** Local authorities in Bonaire and Saba stated that much money is wasted on trips that are often unnecessary.

An investigation by the Dutch news broadcast, RTL Nieuws, aired on TV in The Netherlands last week, showed that there were 600 trips between 2009 and 2011 by Dutch civil servant delegations of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK and of Safety and Justice V&J, consisting of one or more persons, alone cost some €2 million.

The figure doesn't include the numerous delegations from other Dutch ministries to Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

According to RTL Nieuws, it is often not clear whether the visits of the civil servants to the islands yielded significant results. The majority of the trips were to Curaçao: 260. Delegations travelled to St. Maarten 163 times, Bonaire 111, Aruba 59, St. Eustatius 7 and Saba 4. Some 37 trips were categorized as "other" and 22 trips were specified as "to the Netherlands Antilles."

Saba Commissioner Chris Johnson stated in the RTL broadcast that local government quite often had to accommodate delegations from The Netherlands and that the visits didn't always make sense. He mentioned the visit of the Dutch Board for the Media. "They came here to talk about freedom of expression on TV, but we have no TV

stations here. The meeting lasted for five minutes," Johnson said. **Bonaire Island Councilman Benito Dirksz** also complained about the excessive travelling of Dutch civil servants to Bonaire. He estimated that several hundred Dutch civil servants had come to the island since the 10/10/10 integration with The Netherlands. Dirksz also criticized the fact that the prison in Bonaire is permanently guarded by 20 men from The Netherlands. "These people have to be flown in while local Bonaireans are having trouble finding a job," he said. The Ministry responded that local people were sought to fill job openings first, but locals were not always available.



Paving Machine

► **The resurfacing of Kaya Sonmontuno** marks the beginning of the first phase of the project to repair roads and streets, made possible with extra funds provided by The Netherlands.

BWM will use a new recycling machine. See photo above.

Currently a dirt road, Kaya Sonmontuno is a side street of Kaya Nikiboko Noord and an important access road to the day care facility for disabled persons, "Fundashon *Kuido pa Personanan De-sabilita*" (FKPD). **There are four roads scheduled for resurfacing** this way in the first phase of the project. Besides Kaya Sonmontuno, they include the **road in Rincon leading to Ser'i Suit and part of Kaya Macario Sint Jago** from the traffic circle at Nikiboko almost to the airport.

Several other roads will also be repaired via the traditional asphalt method. These will be the **dirt road alongside the launderette and connecting Kaya Betico Croes with Kaya Nikiko Zuid, as well as the dirt road to the Liceo Boneriano.**

This method will be used to surface the **Kaminda Broertje Janga, the "back road" to Rincon, in the second phase.**

(Continued on page 4)

Name The Prison Contest



Prison Gate

Don't you think calling Bonaire's state-owned prison JICN, *Justitiele Inrichting Caribisch Nederland* (Correctional Institution Dutch Caribbean) is too boring or non-descriptive a name for Bonaire's prison?

Some people do. Here are a few of the names sent to-date:

Bon Suerte -Good Luck
KIKP (Keda i Kome Pornada) Stay and Eat for Free

Nobo Kuminsá -New Start
PUDA (Pasa un dushi ana) - Have a nice year

PADL (Pasa algu dushi lunanan) - Have some nice months

TUC (Tuma Un Chèns) -Took A Chance

Come up with your own clever, appropriate name and win a large Pasa Bon Pizza.

Email:

reporter@bonairenews.com
Contest closes September 7.

Bonaire To VOTE

Wednesday, September 12, for the first ever Second Chamber parliamentary elections in Bonaire there will be seven polling stations: six normal polling stations and one special polling station in the prison (JICN). Only prisoners are allowed to vote there. There are fewer polling stations than with the Island Council Elections. Normally, classrooms are also used as polling stations, but this year the schools won't be closed on that day.

The polling stations are located at Jong Bonaire Youth Center, and the Centro di Barios (community centers) in Nikiboko, Tera Cora, Anriol, Noord-Salinja and Center Rincon.

In the coming weeks, the polling cards will be delivered door-to-door. **Any voters who haven't received this card by August 29 can collect such at *Bevolking* (department of civil affairs) up to two days before the elections.**

Voters may vote with their polling card, with a power of attorney or a ballot. They can cast their vote at a polling station upon presenting their polling card. Those unable to vote can let a third party cast a vote on their behalf with a power of attorney. Special forms regarding the latter are available at *Bevolking*. Requests to cast a ballot are to be made at *Bevolking*.

Voters are free to cast their vote at any of the six polling stations. In other words, they aren't obligated to do so at a certain polling station or constituency.

Voters can also cast their vote in the Netherlands or on one of the other BES islands. Those registered on Bonaire but finding themselves in the Netherlands, on Saba or St. Eustatius on election day can vote there. However, these voters have to apply for such in advance at *Bevolking*.

Bonaire Citizens! Show you care about representation. Please vote. ■

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Second Chamber Elections

Wednesday September 12th, 2012

On Wednesday September 12th, 2012 the people of the Dutch Caribbean will participate for the first time in the election of the members of the Second Chamber (Dutch Parliament). By voting you determine, along with other voters, who will gain a seat in the Second Chamber. The Second Chamber decides on topics that are important for you.

What you must know when going to vote:

- The polling stations are open from 7:30 - 21:00 hrs.
- You can cast your vote at any polling station on the island
- If you are not able to vote: grant a proxy
- In order to vote you will need your voting pass and a proof of identification
- There are only names of the political parties and candidates on the ballot sheet: there are no color or pictures

The Second Chamber: important for you too!

You'll be voting too, right?

For more information:
www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/verkiezingen/verkiezingen2012

Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper Extra, translated by Jane Madden Disko

There were two prisoners, a smart one and a dumb one. One day they try to escape. Immediately, they make noise and one of the guards hears them. The guard says: "Who's there?" The smart one says, "MEOWW!" The guard says, "Ah, it's just a cat." They continue on and make noise again. The guard asks again, "Who's there?" The dumb one says, "Another cat."



© Flor Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/1047059

A woman went to see her doctor in desperation. "Doctor, I need you to help me somehow so I can lose weight." The doctor said: "That's very simple. You just need to move your head from left to right and then vice versa." The woman asked: "How many times?" The doctor said: "Every time someone offers you food!"

"This situation is really ridiculous" one prisoner says to another. "They locked me up because I stole bread and now they bring me bread everyday for free!"

A young child goes into his mother's bedroom at 5 a.m. and says "Mama, tell me a story." Mama says: Let's wait for your father, he is going to tell us a good story when he gets home!"

A really drunk man arrives at an apartment building and presses the buzzer for one of the apartments. "Yes?" answers a woman. The man asks: "Ma'am, is your husband at home?" The woman says "Yes, why?" "Ah well, sorry," says the man. He continues to press all the other buzzers of the apartments doing the same thing until he gets to the last one. "Ma'am, is your husband at home?" The woman says "No." The drunk guy says: "Ma'am would you do me a favor and come down and see if I'm your husband?"

Two drunk guys are in a bar that is getting ready to close. One guy says: "Listen, why don't we go to my house and continue our binge?" "No," says the other guy, "Better we go to my house because it's closer." "Let's go see which one is closer." When they get to a corner they stop and one of them says: "OK, we're here this is my house." The other one says: "That can't be because this is MY house!" The first guy says: "Let's knock on the door. That way we'll find out whose house it is." A woman opens the door and says: "Very nice! Father and son both drunk!" ■ *More in the next edition*

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 3)
 ▶ On September 1 and 2, Master Teacher Vivek Yogi from Rishilesh, India, will be sharing ancient methods to create a healthy and balanced life style during the **first ever Yoga and Ayurveda Convention at the Landhouse Wanapa**. The event features workshops on meditation, stress release, weight loss, breathing and relaxation techniques as well as Ayurvedic vegetarian cooking. All participants of the Ayurveda massage course on Sunday will receive a certificate.

The fast growing interest in Yoga and Meditation comes from a need to release stress and find balance in the midst of increasing social and economic pressures. This convention is to help and support individuals to improve health and find new energy for daily life activities. The convention is organized by the Go Green Organic & Holistic Center in Bonaire. For info contact: **Tina Woodley**, E-mail tina.woodley@yahoo.com, Tel: 700-5488

▶ On the initiative of **Fundashon Bon Kousa** all 12 primary and secondary schools of Bonaire will begin a **waste separation program at school**.

The 12 schools received different colored Kliko containers during a special live broadcast of Radio Limpi on Thursday, August 23, at Wilhelmina Square.



Photo © Claudia Tellegen - SGB Media

The containers are color coded: yellow for glass, blue for plastic, aluminum cans for red and white. For more information contact: Bart Lanheer at 717-3839/787-0224

▶ The first copy of the 2013 (5th) Jong Bonaire calendar was presented to Gov-



ernor Lydia Emerencia and State Secretary Joop Atsma of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment during their visit to the youth center last week. The calendar's theme is "What Can We Do To make A Cleaner And Greener Bonaire." It will be available in late September and can be ordered in advance at Jong Bonaire (717-4303)

▶ **BonFysio is offering a unique new service: The Fysio Health Check**. Do you have a physical complaint but you don't know what to do with it? Every Friday afternoon from 5-6pm one of the physical therapists of BonFysio will see you for a **free** Health Check. During the Fysio Health Check your complaint will be examined and you will get professional advice about what to do. Make an appointment for your Fysio Health Check by phone or by email. Make sure you say the appointment is for the Fysio Health Check. 717-7030 or fysio@bonfysio.nl ■

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Born on Bonaire, August 18th, 1959 – Felix ‘Papito’ Thomas



‘Papito’ Thomas

“I was born in Nort di Saliña – Kunuku Bieu – and both my parents were from Bonaire. Before he met my mom, my father worked in Aruba and Curaçao for Lago and Shell. When they got married in 1959 he started working for the government on Bonaire as a crane driver. From their marriage I am the only son and I have two sisters, but before my dad married my mother, he already had two children in Curaçao, a brother and a sister, who both live in Holland since 1974.

finish their houses. So we came up with the idea of doing something for that group of people as well. We named it the ‘DIY Project’ and when we started there was a lot of interest for people to participate. Holland had provided a development fund for all six Dutch Antilles islands and on each island foundations and institutions could introduce a project to be financed. That’s how we got the money for the ‘DIY Project.’

In the early 90s the Central Bank of the Dutch Antilles was commissioned to find



Papito Thomas at the Maskarada meeting together with the Maskarada volunteers and the people of Fundashon Nawati.

Besides my work at Fundashon for 33 years – unbelievable-” *He laughs*, “I was very active in the social field. I was a member of JCI (Junior Chamber of Commerce) Bonaire, a chairman, a treasurer and a secretary. I was a member of JCI Dutch Antilles, treasurer of the Special Olympics Bonaire, Bonaire’s representative at the Dutch Antilles Development Bank, manager of the Glenn I su Geng band, chairman of Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, chairman of the Union Patriotiko UPB and chairman of the Bonairean Karnaval Foundation – ah,” *He laughs*, “so many things!

Nowadays I am ‘only’ the vice chairman of Fundashon Nawati – a foundation which has a goal to promote and support the spiritual, cultural, social and physical development of the people in Nort di Saliña and the Bonairean community in general. And I am also strongly promoting and supporting the Maskarada event.” *He smiles*. “I am proud to be a Norteño – somebody from Nort di Saliña.”

‘Papito’ is a bright man with a big heart and broad interests. He’s a hard worker. He’s one of those people who turn a society into a better place by donating his time and knowledge voluntarily and for free to many causes.

“We’re living in a material world and life is hard and many things have changed. In the old days, after puberty, you would look for a girl you liked. Is she pretty? Is she respected? Well, not anymore it seems, because nowadays there is a tendency to see whether the family has money...

I have five children, two from before I married: a son and a daughter. My daughter who’s 30 works at SGB as a teacher and my son who’s 28 lives in Holland. At home I have three children - two sons and a daughter - and my wife Bilha is a manager at Jong Bonaire. We’ve been married for 26 years and over the years we’ve gotten to know each other better. We support each other and we always respect and appreciate each other’s opinion. And ... by doing so, we hope our children will follow our example.

I think as an individual you should like your life, you need to have friends and a job to provide you with material things. One has to enjoy life and – very impor-

tantly – to get to know other places, different parts of this world. I love to travel!

Bonaire is a beautiful island and I love that we still don’t have traffic lights and I hope it will stay the way it is for another 20-25 years and that we will be able to support and respect each other. Because we are living in a small community you will sometimes be thwarted and that’s wrong, because if you work together you accomplish more!

We’ve become a BES Island now and there are new rules and we have to stay up to date. Also, when things are hard, don’t give up the fight but be open to different approaches to the problem. You see, nothing ever stays the same. I’ve lived my life as a child, as a teenager, as a grown-up and again I’m at a different point in my life. It’s like a week doesn’t only exist from a Monday!

When you travel, you see bigger communities and different developments which could be accomplished on a smaller scale on Bonaire as well.” *He grins*. “I always had this idea of making a water park – like ‘Wet ‘n Wild’, but smaller – around the vicinity of Fontein. It would be fun and draw a lot of people from the neighboring islands and it would give jobs to people! Or someone could set up a wooden snack at Seru Largo so you could sit there, eat and drink something and enjoy the beautiful view.

As a conclusion to my career I would like to represent Bonaire abroad for a few years, for example in Holland. And if the opportunity comes, I’ll do it! Maybe it’s in the blood, because many of my ancestors left the island when they were 10, 12 years old to work abroad and they would come back when they were old. I had an uncle with the same initials as I have, who left the island at the age of 13. He ended up in southern Virginia where he stayed until he passed away at 101 years old.” *He laughs* “I like that, you see... I like challenges!”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“The fact that people cannot build their own house anymore, that’s terrible.”

When I was young I went to St. Dominicus Elementary School and then to Lourdes Mavo. From there I moved to Curaçao with family and followed Havo at the Peter Stuyvesant College. I was 16; it was a new life with more freedom and new friends and Curaçao was a great place at the time. Shell on Curaçao wanted the children of their employees to be involved in sports so they founded a club where the kids could play cricket, volleyball, hockey, basketball and swim, as there was a pool as well. I lived very close by so I joined the club and played tennis, soccer, volleyball and basketball. I had a wonderful time! I finished Havo and then went to Aruba to continue my studies. But the family I was living with moved to Holland so I came back to Bonaire.

On Bonaire my father introduced me to the chairman of Fundashon Kas Boneriano (FKB), Mr. Piet Martis, and he offered me a temporary job as an administrator. I was filling in for a lady who was on pregnancy leave. When the lady returned the board offered me a job at the business office. Because they wanted me to get some insight into the work of a housing cooperative, they send me to eastern Holland to do an internship. I had a fantastic time there and I learned a great deal. I stayed for six months, then I came back and started my career at Fundashon.

In 1981 we did a survey and found out there was a housing shortage and a need for rentals, but we also saw that many homeowners didn’t have the money to

out whether each foundation or company was sticking to their original purpose. As FKB was supposed to build houses for rental purposes, we had to start up a different foundation for providing credit. That became Fundashon pa Kredito.

I became DIY Project leader, a job I held until 2010. In January 2010 I was approached by the UPB political party to become the secretary of state in the Central Government on Curaçao. I accepted the offer and Fundashon agreed to give me a leave for an indefinite period. I worked in Curaçao until October 2010, then I came back with the Fundashon. This time I’m doing special projects.

After 10-10-10 the way we were able to provide credit changed because there is a new way of monitoring. The conditions which we now have to meet are much more stringent. Also, the group of people we used to work with cannot get credit anymore because of those terms.

The fact that people cannot build their own house anymore, that’s terrible. However, the biggest problem is – because the price of everything has gone up so much – that people don’t have sufficient funds left to pay off their existing loan. By lowering the interest and giving an extension of the term, we’re trying to come up with an amount that the client can afford to pay, but we also have to consider their age. So, it came to a point that after July 1st we no longer are able give loans until it becomes clear what the possibilities really are and so... we’re waiting.

Out of Season Maskarada



Greta Kooistra photo

'Bito' Alberto, chairman of the Nawati Foundation, helps Prisia Silberie to dress into her Maskarada costume.

On *Dia di Boneiru* – Bonaire's Flag Day – Thursday, September 6th an unprecedented, out-of-season Maskarada performance will be given at the *Sentro di Bario* in Tera Kora. Usually the event takes place on New Year's day to celebrate the New Year, but, as it didn't happen this year, the hard core Maskarada lovers decided, together with the Nawati Foundation, to make up for the missed chance and to go for an extra edition of Maskarada, starting

around 11:30 am on Bonaire Day. It took a lot of hard (volunteer) work and great enthusiasm, but they got the group of performers together, the costumes are almost ready and the great Maskarada spirit is definitely there!

Maskarada is a typical Bonairean happening. You won't see it exactly like this on any other island. So don't miss the opportunity and treat yourself to this cheerful, ancient and mysterious Bonairean occurrence!

■ Greta Kooistra

Bonaire Coral Puzzle: A Shore Effect?

Seventeen years ago, the Bonaire Marine Park started a long-term experiment in coral development, albeit inadvertently. They installed concrete mooring blocks along the shoreline of Kralendijk for yachts and boats to moor. Coral colonies began inhabiting the block faces. I've discovered that this intriguing growth was not random but instead followed patterns, some quite puzzling. Here is one of them.

There are two lines of the moorings between Karel's Bar and Kas di Regatta. One line consists of a dozen moorings constructed from three blocks each and is located away from shore, just near the reef drop-off. Another line consists of a dozen moorings constructed from two blocks each and is located on the sand-flat, half way between the reef drop-off and the shore. Let's

compare exposed vertical faces of the blocks near the reef and those of the blocks near the shore. Where would one expect to find more corals? Wouldn't corals prefer to grow near the reef and away from the town shoreline with all its polluted water and untreated sewage runoff? The corals provided surprises.

More live coral colonies grew on the faces of the blocks close to the shore than on those close to the reef. Only 12% of the faces of the off-shore blocks are covered with live corals. Photo A shows such an average face. Twice as much, 25%, of the close-to-shore faces are covered with live corals, as in photo B. Are shore effects good for the corals? Are some off-shore effects bad for the corals? What factors are responsible? Was it depth? Was it light? Was it human related? ■ Genady Filkovsky



Figure A –An “offshore” coral encrusted block

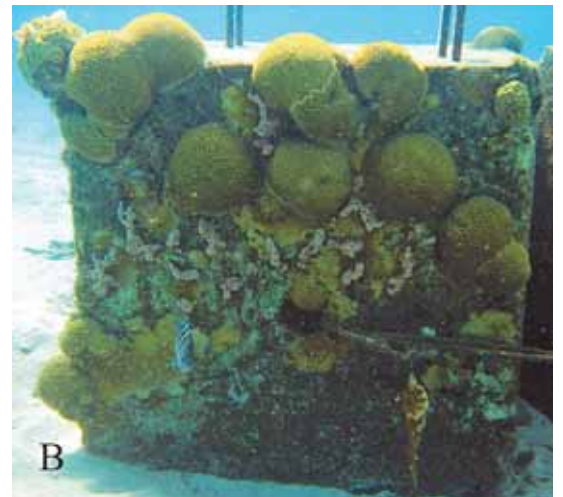


Figure B –An “inshore” coral encrusted block

If you are interested in discussing this puzzle and the solution or to get more information, write to Genady Filkovsky, Email: lagoenhill20@yahoo.com

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Wounded Warriors Win Bonaire



The Warriors (wearing Bonaire Ambassador medals) with TCB staff, Beauty King and Queen and sponsors.



The Governor and a few Warriors discuss the merits of the pastechis (made by Eddy's Gourmandaise) being served.

At a reception in the courtyard of the Executive Office Building the TCB, Adams Unlimited and Bonaire's Governor Lydia Emerencia, hosted nine American service men, the "Wounded Warriors." They had survived serious injuries defending the cause of freedom. As a special recognition and as a note of appreciation they were each named Bonaire Ambassadors. The Governor, Mr. and Miss Tourism, the TCB president presented their medals to each man individually.

Both of Bonaire's motorcycle clubs as well as individual riders escorted the Warriors from Capt. Don's Habitat to the Executive Office courtyard for the reception.

Bonaire made an exceptionally good impression on the men. Several of them expressed a desire to not only return to Bonaire for a visit, but a few said they wanted to relocate here. ■ L./G.D.



Receiving something from a beauty queen is always a good thing.



WW Facebook photo

Using hand flippers gets you going wherever you want to underwater.

Quad riding around the island was another popular activity



WW Facebook photo

Picture Yourself In Huancayo, Peru



Medical office secretary Sharella Coffi Jansen, while on vacation in Peru, visited Huancayo and took a picture on top of the Statue of La Imaculada with a copy of *The Reporter*.

La Imaculada

Picture Yourself At A Graduation In Sheffield, U.K.

Mini and Gerrit Bijsterbosch, residents of Bonaire for almost nine years, sent us a picture from their visit to Sheffield, U.K. to celebrate the graduation of their daughter, Janine, as a Doctor in Neuro-philosophy. They are very proud that she is now working as a scientist at the University of Oxford. A lot of people liked Mini's dress, a typical Caribbean evening dress with glitters.



In order to reduce the backlog of Picture Yourself photos we are printing two this edition

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Home Cookin'

Gibi's Local Food, Kaya Hulanda #39
Nikiboko South -order take away- at 786-6798

This column is a regular feature in The Reporter about Bonaire cooks who dish up tasty treats and culinary history from their own kitchens. Selling food from their back yards, at "The Taste of Bonaire," or at the crafts market, many also do catering for individuals, organizations, and groups. We hope you decide to pay them a visit to experience the multicultural cuisine of Bonaire.



Gibi at home... but on the job

Gilbert (Gibi) Winklaar has come full circle in his life-long career as a chef. Starting at age seven helping his parents in their kitchen on Bonaire ("Cooking wasn't so much fun then," he remembers), he signed up at age 15 for Aruba's first culinary school, and spent the next 37 years as either a chef at hotels in Aruba, Costa Rica, Venezuela, even Jamaica ("I really wanted to learn jerk cooking.") or a restaurateur on Bonaire. But then, after working at several restaurants on Bonaire, like Captain Don's (which he started) and Den Laman, Gibi asked himself, "I've been working for people all my life, why don't I try my own business?"

So, for six years, Gibi served up goat stew, conch stew, and pan-fried local fish with Creole sauce at Gilbert's Corner, his own place downtown. Open 24 hours a day, Gibi's first restaurant soon became more work than he bargained for, so he went back to the hotels and found a job opening the kitchen for the Coral Regency (now Buddy Dive). But still he hankered to be an entrepreneur so he went off on his own again first at Jos Bar in Antriol and then at Gibi's Terrace in Nikiboko. Finally, after problems with the building's owners, he decided to expand his kitchen at home on Kaya Hulanda where you can still find him serving up his brand of local food Monday through Saturday from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Gibi has been driven by the fact that "since Bonaire had no local restaurant, tourists could not eat good, local food," so he was determined to share delicacies like iguana stew, pastiche, funchi, etc. And the tourists came, most of them American, and many of them participants on Bonaire Talk, and they came again and again. Five years ago, most of Gibi's customers were tourists, but today, because of declining tourist numbers, especially Americans, his clientele is mainly locals, calling early in the morning to put in their orders for fried chicken, fried fish, goat stew, etc. By lunch time, the street is full of cars whose owners are lining up to pick up their take-away. Gibi laughs, "On some days, I will serve 100 people, mostly take-away, but some eat here and never leave." After sampling one of his pastiches filled with mildly-spiced beef, I ask Gibi for the secret to local food on Bonaire. He does not hesitate, "The way of cooking on Bonaire is fewer spices; they



Out of this world Kabrito Stoba (goat stew)

don't like spicy food and will complain if it is too spicy."

Up at 5 am, Gibi is one busy man, making pastiche stuffed with fish, beef, chicken, even bacon and egg, to sell around town (at the Hato Minimarket, the hospital cafeteria, and Van Den Tweel supermarket); preparing all his lunch specials; catering to groups like the students at CIEE; even arranging special dinners upon request. But it is all worth it because to Gibi, "Cooking is something spectacular. If you do it right, it's like doing a piece of art." Forever the student of cooking, he admits to peeking at Food Network television every now and then to compare his methods to famous chefs like Bobby Flay and Ina Garten.

He has two complaints about the business. The first is "instructing employees over and over about how to do things." The second is the unfair pricing for ingredients on Bonaire: for example, **a 20 kilo bag of potatoes is \$12 on Curaçao but \$22 on Bonaire while 30 pounds of chicken legs is \$23 on Curaçao but \$48 on Bonaire.** As a result, it is cheaper to order food from Curaçao and have it shipped to Bonaire. Gibi thinks there is a real connection between these high prices for food and increased crime on Bonaire: "If people are hungry, they will do anything—sell drugs, rob, attack people, and the government is doing nothing to address the problem." Fortunately for his customers, Gibi will keep finding ways to make his brand of local food affordable and tasty. ■ Story & photos by Pauline Kayes



A Long and Artful Happy Hour

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 5-9PM: ARTS AND CRAFTS, AFFORDABLE DRINKS AND

At the plaza next to El Mundo Restaurant on Kaya Grandi the Happy Hour Arts and Crafts Market presents Bonaire in a laidback and artistic way every Friday from 5 until 9 pm. About a dozen stands represent the big cruise ship market during low season and this cozy little market offers tourists and locals a variety of locally made arts and crafts, plus the opportunity to talk to the artists while enjoying your drink at HH prices.

Over the last couple of months *The Bonaire Reporter* has introduced the artists and their work to the public with the intention of giving these persevering people an extra boost. We conclude this report with the last two artists.

First, there's **Judith**. "I came to the island in 2008. In Holland I worked in construction as a maintenance painter, but I also worked as a bartender; I liked being on a payroll. When I moved to Bonaire there were so many things I was missing, but then my creativity took over and all those fun and colorful gadgets I couldn't get here - I made them myself! And when I heard there was a vacancy at the market I decided it was the chance to start for myself. So, I've been doing this for two and a half years now and finally I can give free rein to my creativity! All the materials I try to find or buy on Bonaire, so we can help each other a little bit. And as it isn't easy, it's good for the mind to think in an alternative way. I make everything at home: little beach pillows, driftwood art, signs and key rings, hair and decoration stuff, dream catchers and hand painted swings.

The Friday Happy Hour Market is fun and the tourists like it a lot. They always ask me where I'm from and how long I've been here and they tell me I have a great job! And all of them love the island. They say it's cozy and quiet and beautiful. I'm looking forward to when the cruise ship season starts - more hustle and bustle - it's about time, I'm ready for it!

Dianir and Sipke: "I came to Bonaire in 1995 from Holland. Dianir came in 1997 from Venezuela. Before the cruise ships came here we were already at the tiny little market which consisted at the time of about seven or eight people. I am a physical education teacher at SGB high school and Dianir has always been an artist. She made pottery in Venezuela. The inspiration for our art we find in nature. What we make is ceramic art and jewelry. Prints of leaves, driftwood, corals and snails, occa-



Judith "specializes" in variety



Sipke, Dianir's niece Chantal and Dianir

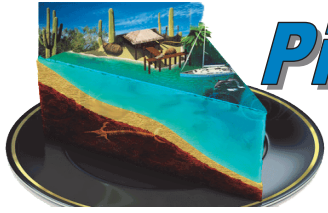
sionally combined with sweet water pearls, silver, leather and waxed cotton. This year we're going for it 100%.

I took a sabbatical year from school and we have a brand new workshop. Creatively we're bursting. The newest thing we're doing is animal prints and already we've got some very beautiful ones from lizards, birds, iguanas and fiddle crabs.

The market is a social happening and all the people have something in common - they make art on Bonaire - and it touches people. For instance, our colleague Dion makes beautiful things with driftwood. To me it's amazing what different people create out of - more or less - the same piece of material. The point of view of an artist is truly unique.

In general tourists are here no longer than a week and when they come on a cruise ship, only for one day - although we see a lot of repeats lately. I think it's very nice that people who come to dive, or people who come for a tour, also have the opportunity to see Bonaire through the eyes of the artists by being introduced to their art, whether it's a water color, a piece of jewelry or a photograph. The moment you start talking to the people, they immediately ask you all kinds of questions and they're always having the best of times. It does happen that they don't even know on which island they are, but... most of them did their home work well and they are very interested in all that Bonaire has to offer."

■ Story & Photos by Greta Kooistra



Piece of Paradise

Answers to your Bonaire real estate related questions. Please email your questions to reporter@bonairenews.com

REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL REPORTS: WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU AND WHAT DO YOU NEED THEM FOR?

One of the questions that *The Bonaire Reporter* readership sent in was how are real estate prices actually decided? There are many different answers to this question. Many books have been written about the subject. In the end of course the market value is decided by what a buyer pays. The amount a buyer is willing to pay for a property is, in the end, the market value. However, there are many different aspects of the value of real estate to take into consideration as well, depending on who wants to know the value of a property.

When a buyer considers purchasing a property he might want to have some confirmation that the price that he is willing to pay is actually in a proper relation to the real estate in question. This can be confirmed (or denied) by ordering a formal appraisal by an independent appraiser. The same is the case for an owner considering selling his property and who would prefer an independent opinion about the property before making the decision to sell.

Furthermore, it is very common practice to (partially) pay for a property through financing. In that case the bank or other party that is giving the mortgage needs

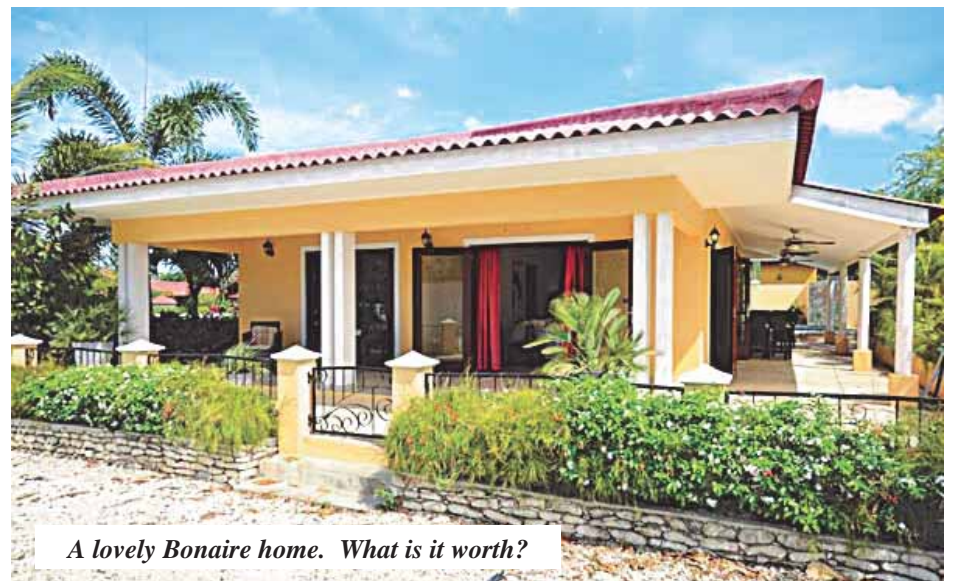
some solid insurance that in case the owner defaults on his responsibilities, the value of the security property during an auction is sufficient to cover the debts incurred. Insurance companies have similar reasons to ask for an appraisal report.

And then there is the group of real estate owners who see property ownership as a solid form of investing and from time to time needs to know the value of their portfolio.

Lastly, sometimes an appraisal report is needed when an owner enters into discussions with, for example the tax department or a financial institution, about the value of the real estate he or she owns.

So whom do you ask to prepare your appraisal report? In principle an appraisal report should be prepared by an individual who has a proven track record to be able to deliver an independent report. In the Netherlands appraisers are actually sworn in by the court, which makes them personally liable for the objectivity of their work. On Bonaire you are best served by asking about the track record of the appraiser. One of the ways in which you can establish the value of the report they deliver is by asking if an appraiser has been hired by the local authorities to establish real estate values. Those appraisers usually have a trustworthy record.

Three values are mentioned in the ap-



A lovely Bonaire home. What is it worth?

praisal report: the market value, the forced sale value and the reconstruction value.

The first value is the **maximum price a property can be sold for** on the market when it is presented in the best possible way to as many potential buyers during a listing period that is normal for the region.

The **forced sale value** is the price that would be paid for the property when it is sold **via a public auction by the bank**. This means that the property is no longer sold in the best possible way to as many potential buyers during a listing period that is normal for the region. Therefore, usually the forced sale value is less than the market value.

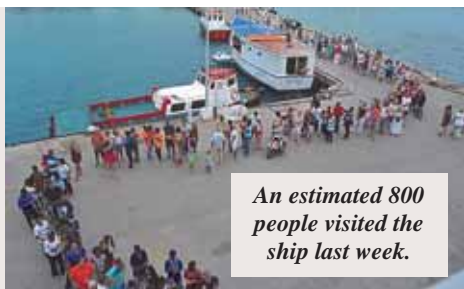
The **reconstruction value is the amount of the costs involved in reconstruction the property into its present state of**

repair. The building and material costs at the time of appraisal are important for this amount. The reconstruction value of an extremely luxurious home will therefore be much higher than for a more modest standard property. Therefore it can even be possible that the reconstruction value is higher than the market value. The assessment of the reconstruction value considers that there will be no need to rebuild the foundation for a property when it will be reconstructed. This reconstruction value is often needed for the building insurance. You can usually choose to include or exclude the insurance for reconstructing a foundation. ■ Corine van der Hout ©



Cover Story HMS Tromp Visit

Since early June the *HMS Tromp* has been the station ship in the Caribbean for the Dutch Navy and the Coast Guard. This advanced naval ship, an air defense and command frigate, had a delightful open house on Thursday, August 23, from 2 to 5.



An estimated 800 people visited the ship last week.

This is the first time a fighting frigate serves as a Caribbean station ship. The *Tromp* performs tasks such as customs, environmental and fisheries monitoring and handling of maritime distress alerts. Finally, the ship and its crew are deployed to provide assistance in the event of humanitarian disasters.

There are four technologically advanced air defense and command frigates (LCF) in the Royal Navy. The frigates have a command function. They have the capability on board to help guide comprehensive maritime operations. The frigates are also equipped for air defense and with other vessels can form a squadron to defend whole fleets or support operations. The most striking feature of the LCF's is their stealth technology which gives them a tight and angular appearance. Thanks to the advanced automation the ship can be handled by a crew of only 202, including officers.

The commander of the *Tromp* is Naval Captain Rene Tas. ■ Press release

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Hillside Apartments A Vibrant Local Experience In Antriol

It's a Sunday afternoon, the parking lot is full of cars, waves of *bachata* music resound against the hill, and there's the typical and unique sound of splashing, squealing and running that a whole bunch of children make in a pool. The view from the complex is stunning - almost 360 degrees-and down there lies Antriol, beautiful and picturesque in its own way. When I enter it seems like this is the place to be. It's like a meeting point, the bar is full of people - they're laughing, eating and drinking and one is working on his laptop...

Nobody is stopping me, but as I heard there's an entrance fee I ask the girl behind the bar and she says yes, \$5 per person. So that's what I pay and then I get coupons that are worth \$5 each. To make a long story short: you eat or drink your entrance fee and the prices of food and drinks are very reasonable.

There are two big pools and they are full of kids of all ages and some adults floating as well. On the side, in the shade, there are chairs, sofas and tables where people are lounging, hanging, sleeping, resting, eating and chatting while keeping an eye on their fearless offspring. This is

Bonaire at its best. All nationalities mix and mingle and everybody is having a great time.

Two weeks later I talk to the owner, Theo Zwambach. "We opened the 1st of May this year after three and a half years of construction. The plan was that my daughter and her boyfriend were going to run this place, but on March 4th, my daughter's partner crashed in the kunuku while he was driving a quad. I raced to Kunuku Arawak so the ambulance could follow me - because how to explain where you are in the kunuku - and they drove 70 kilometers per hour behind me. At the hospital they were busy with him for five hours, but he passed away at the airport before the plane could leave for Colombia. We were in shock and our plans for the future were shattered.

I'm running this place by myself now, 24/7, and I close and open up, so that leaves me four hours of sleep per night. However, I've got a great staff; they work at least as hard as I do. Well, in September my daughter is coming to relieve me a little and I am desperate for her, because this is tough! Around Christmas, a Dutch couple who

has lived on Bonaire before - Natalie and Tim - will take over. In Holland I still have two companies - earth moving and traffic engineering - and 30 employees. So, when everything is going well I like to come over and sit on the other side of the bar!

We've got six studios and 12, 2-bedroom apartments. The studios are \$100 per night; the apartments \$125 or \$150 for the more luxurious ones. We set it up for short term rentals and in the meantime we've rented the studios out for six months to the Mariadal Foundation.

To me, the most important thing is that everybody is welcome here. It's affordable for everyone. Many local people book a long weekend on their own island. It saves them the airfares. But also their relatives from the other islands come and stay here as well as guests and personnel of MCB and BWM who are temporarily stationed here. During weekends and school holidays we're packed and it's just super nice and fun. Locals, Latinos and Dutch - one big party. And everybody feels welcome and at home.

We keep the place extremely clean. Frank from BSC Pool



Theo Zwambach at the top floor of Hillside apartments, while Frank Bierings takes care of the pools.

Bonaire comes to test and clean the magnesium pools (no Clorox, no red eyes, no ear infections and good for the skin). Every day and at night we scrub the whole place. The toilets are cleaned the whole day long. I am a fanatic. I was always told, 'If you want to know what the kitchen of a restaurant is about, check the bathroom!'

I think our prices are fair: \$2.50 for a beer - Polar, Heineken or Amstel - all the same price. And it includes space to lounge, shade, music, a good breeze and a pool. Hillside is a place that doesn't have competition because there's nothing like this on the island. We're in the middle of the island with the best views you

can possibly get on Bonaire.

Yes, it's Antriol and each room has its own alarm system, security camera and burglar resistant glass and at night there's a guard, but I would like you to write positive about Antriol because this neighborhood is very happy that we're here and they are proud to host us.

I came to the Antilles 12 years ago. I thought Aruba was too American, Curaçao was little Amsterdam, but for Bonaire I fell head over heels. And in spite of the tragedy that happened this year, I still feel the same about Bonaire." ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

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'See To Be Seen' - The Lighthouses of Bonaire

Part 1

After being away for one and a half years when I returned to Bonaire for a month people asked me, "What has changed on Bonaire?" A lot has changed, most things for the better, some for the worse! Especially the nights have changed. Now every night you can see the lights from the five lighthouses sweeping over the island for the safety of ships and passengers. This is a little bit different from the last 20 years because for so many of those years the lights were not working. Some boats didn't make a safe journey to Bonaire and that is a pity because, as we all know, it is such a beautiful island.

On October 19, 2011, *Rijkswaterstaat/DZN* began the restoration of the lighthouses of Bonaire. The official start was by Deputy James Kroon and project leader Paul Wichers. *Rijkswaterstaat* is responsible for keeping the lights burning; the operation is done by Radio Holland. The local Bonaire island government is responsible for the buildings and masts. The Willemstoren, Spelonk and Seru Bentana lighthouses are old stone constructions and have monumental status. The Wecua and Klein Bonaire lights are on top of a metal mast. *Rijkswaterstaat* decided first to renovate the lighthouses and also to improve the health and safety situation to make it

safer for maintenance. Since 2008, all five lights are solar-powered.

On a Monday I had the opportunity to visit the lighthouses of Bonaire with a Radio Holland technician who is doing the monthly technical light check-up of all the five lights on Bonaire, usually taking two or three days.

Our trip started by going into the Washington Slagbaai National Park. We had to take the long route and passed the beautiful Seru Grandi rock formation and Seru Mei Mei. A little bit further some Dutch cows were standing on the road. It was a little bit of a surrealistic scene, seeing the black and white cows in the red and dry surroundings instead on juicy green grassland.

From a distance we could already see the white square outline of the tower of the Seru Bentana lighthouse. All around it was high scaffolding for the construction workers. This is the last of the three stone lighthouses which have to be renovated, both inside and outside. Three men were working very hard. We went inside the tower. Outside I noticed a beautiful and safe metal staircase. Inside there was still an old ladder. The gas pipelines from the old gas system were also still there, ascending from the base all the way to the top. The old gas cylinders and meters were lying outside, to be thrown away.

We made it safely to the top. Each time that I have climbed to the top I am speechless at the amazing scenery – to see the beautiful green mountains on one side and hear large waves smashing on the other rough side of the island at the same time. The big old green light is made of bronze and copper and worked on gas in the old days. The little device on top was the pilot flame which was always on in the past. The technician was checking everything and the WD40 was doing the rest. The light was in good condition and worked.

The roof of the house and water cistern were open because they were renewing the old construction beams. All the lintels and thresholds were being repaired and plastered. And in a few weeks the rain gutter will be working again to fill the cistern with rainwater.

When the Seru Bentana lighthouse has been renovated, with the safe and strong staircase in the tower, it will be partly open for the public. The old green copper light will then probably be standing dry and safe in the Bonaire museum where the public may visit it.

We had to hurry if we wanted to do all the lights. The non-operational lighthouse of Malmok on the most northern side of the island would have to wait. After this

(Continued on page 15)



Seru Bentana lighthouse surrounded by framework



The Wecua Light gets replaced



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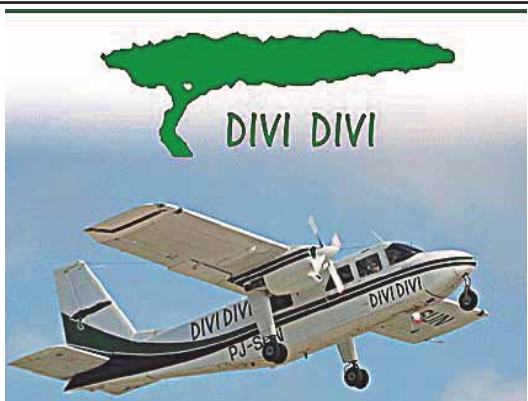
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ianinbc@shaw.ca Pictures in February
issues of the Bonaire Reporter

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items, shoes, clothes & books for Dare to
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See ad on page 2

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Help Wanted

Echo is a recently created conserva-
tion NGO working to **protect the Yel-
low-shouldered Amazon Parrot on
Bonaire.** Echo conducts research, eco-
logical management and outreach to
protect the wild parrot population.
Echo also has a rehabilitation and re-
lease program for injured and illegally
captured parrots. The dedicated Echo
team operates from their new field
camp located in a beautiful and wild
area at Dos Pos.

**Echo needs volunteer help in trans-
lating newspaper articles and face
book postings from English to Papi-
amentu.** The work wouldn't be regular
but as and when the need arises when it
would then be necessary to respond
quickly.

Please contact Sam Williams
sam@echobonaire.org or
carla.hayc@gmail.com if you can help.

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 31	00:02 0.74 ft	07:49 0.03 ft	13:19 0.48 ft	19:34 0.18 ft	Full Moon	6:25	18:46
Sat 01	01:08 0.62 ft	08:34 0.08 ft	14:17 0.56 ft	21:07 0.17 ft		6:25	18:45
Sun 02	02:20 0.52 ft	09:15 0.12 ft	15:09 0.63 ft	22:31 0.13 ft		6:25	18:45
Mon 03	03:33 0.45 ft	09:54 0.15 ft	15:55 0.70 ft	23:39 0.08 ft		6:25	18:44
Tue 04	04:40 0.40 ft	10:29 0.17 ft	16:36 0.75 ft			6:25	18:43
Wed 05		00:34 0.04 ft	05:36 0.37 ft	11:02 0.18 ft	17:14 0.80 ft	6:25	18:43
Thu 06		01:20 0.01 ft	06:22 0.35 ft	11:33 0.19 ft	17:50 0.84 ft	6:25	18:42
Fri 07		02:01 -0.01 ft	07:00 0.33 ft	12:03 0.18 ft	18:25 0.87 ft	6:25	18:41
Sat 08	L Quarter	02:39 -0.01 ft	07:34 0.32 ft	12:34 0.17 ft	19:00 0.89 ft	6:25	18:41
Sun 09		03:16 -0.01 ft	08:06 0.31 ft	13:05 0.16 ft	19:36 0.89 ft	6:25	18:40
Mon 10		03:52 -0.00 ft	08:39 0.31 ft	13:41 0.15 ft	20:12 0.88 ft	6:25	18:39
Tue 11		04:27 0.02 ft	09:13 0.32 ft	14:21 0.16 ft	20:50 0.85 ft	6:25	18:38
Wed 12		05:00 0.04 ft	09:51 0.35 ft	15:10 0.17 ft	21:31 0.79 ft	6:25	18:38
Thu 13		05:32 0.07 ft	10:33 0.40 ft	16:12 0.19 ft	22:16 0.72 ft	6:25	18:37
Fri 14		06:02 0.10 ft	11:20 0.47 ft	17:31 0.21 ft	23:10 0.62 ft	6:25	18:36

**Note: On August 31 there will be a "Blue Moon."
The Blue Moon is the second Full Moon of August.**

Last week her friends wished
Gerda Rust congratulations on her
90th birthday.

This week she answers:

**"Gerda Rust thanks
all my friends who
congratulated me
on my 90th
birthday in the
Reporter!"**

TENE BONEIRU LIMPI



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see June 22
edition of
*The Re-
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WEB/ECOPOWER SITUATION.

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter that was recently sent out from Burney el Hage regarding the WEB/



ECOPOWER situation. (see page 2)

Dear Burney:

You have asked for suggestions from Bonaire citizens as to how the debt crisis with WEB might be helped. For openers may I suggest that you, Richard Hart, and other members of The Energy Team agree to accept salaries of \$1.00 per year until electric and water rates return to normal. Considering the current pay grade that you each enjoy this should not be a hardship. In addition it would show the people of Bonaire that you are willing to do your fair share in solving this problem. Your reaching out to the people of the island in this way will indeed put you in touch with the common man (and woman).

In anticipation of your good deed allow me to say thank you on behalf of my friends and neighbors here on Bonaire.

A Bonaire Resident

QUESTION

Dear Editor:

Why are our Utility bills so much higher than the rest of the Caribbean? Do we have better politicians?

MaggieK

TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Dear editor:

Part of Bonaire's culture since 1882 is issuing a license to all kunuku persons, that qualifies them to have a weapon for the sole reason of protecting his or her animals.



A farmer /kunuku owner has the right to protect his animals from dogs that come on to his land and viciously kill his goats, chickens, ducks etc.

As there is no other way to do this unless they put out poison, they choose not to put out poison as this will kill all dogs and cats, not just the ones that are attacking the animals.

Known facts to local and long time residents:

** When a dog kills an animal on a farm/kunuku he will always come back for more. Therefore just chasing a dog that they see kill a goat etc., is not a solution, unless they want to have more eaten.

** There are few to no wild dogs on the island. The dogs that hunt are always dogs that belong to people. Dogs that are allowed to roam free. Or dogs that are not trained or controllable taken outside of

their yards or pens, for walks without a leash or lead rope.

** In all the years kunuku owners have had their weapons, there has never been a case where the weapons were used for anything but protecting their animals.

** It will not work if they just call the police as the dog will be gone and the animals would be dead.

** The sad part is the dogs suffer because their owners are not acting responsibly. It is the owners that should face criminal charges and made to pay for the animals lost.

The following is for the new people who come here to live or make rules:

Some new residents to the island believe they can function as they did in Holland or elsewhere. Some are actually arrogant, not only to try and bring their rules here but, in some cases they do.

**Which brings up the points:

Do the local people of Bonaire have to fall victim to the rules of other countries where the dogs are not a problem?

Do the local people have to give up their rights, especially those that change their culture and way of life that has worked for years?

The above is only one problem that a dominating culture can and in some cases, bring.

Change and progress are evident. It can be done slowly with the rules and programs applied that would not change the image of Bonaire or the tranquil way of life.

*It should not bring laws etc., which are contrary to the beliefs of the people whose island it really is.

A Concerned Citizen

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Dear Editor:

After such a high profile beginning, TCB has fallen mysteriously silent. My job application, among others, for one of the four positions has only received an acknowledgment of receipt with a promise to "let me know something" by August 6th. Having passed that date, I assume that either there were an excess of applications or the posting for employment was just a formality. Whatever the case, the sector continues to stagnate while the "board" makes its decisions.

In the beginning the board changeover seemed to hold promise with a joint Chamber and TCB marketing seminar for the sector. Unfortunately too many of the people who should have been invited were not due to the incomplete data bases, a solution which could have been easily solved but ignored. All in all, it was a professional presentation and hopefully more will follow.

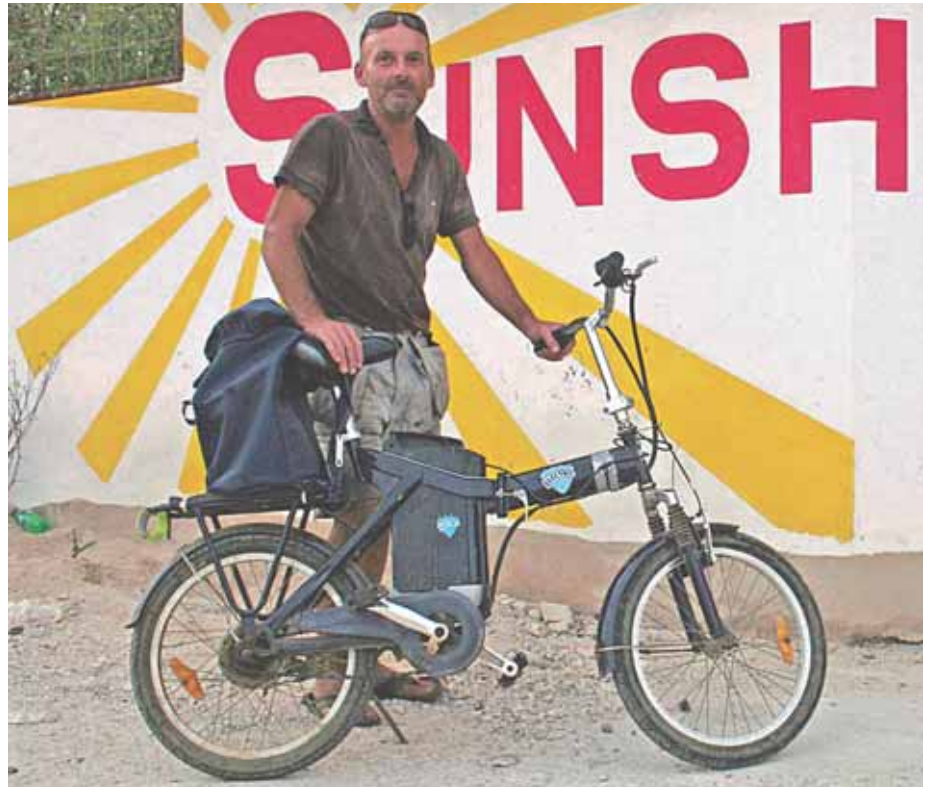
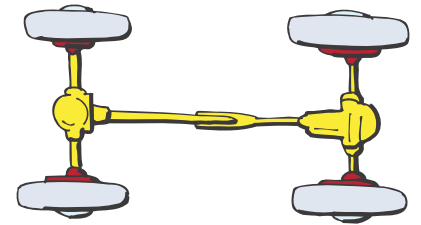
It is the public's right to have transparency and to know where and how TCB will work to make our lives and standard of living on par with other destinations that have good working relationships with their stakeholders. The mission is clear but the method is faulty. There is an air of private agendas and conflicts of interest that pervades TCB. The staff deserve better. We deserve better. Bonaire deserves better. What are the answers?

Michael Gaynor, Former TCB Consultant (15 years); Co Founder TCB Bonaire Ambassadors Awards; Former Editor Entre Nous News Letter; Former Editor/Text Creator TCB Web Sites Bonaire.org, infobonaire.com, tourismbonaie.com.

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 108th 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!



PER, THE SWEDISH BIKE WHISPERER

plug it in when I am at

Bonaire/Kralendijk -

So that day Marianske and I parked the Glassex blue off-road motorcycle in front of the Sunshine Supermarket along the J.A. Abraham Boulevard in the south of Kralendijk to try to find some blue glossy nail polish. We went inside but after a few seconds I had to admit I was attracted by something I saw out of the corner of my right eye. So I left her in the shop and I went outside as the thing appeared to be a folding bike powered by electricity!

So I looked at the bike and the guy sitting on top of it, enjoying a cool tin filled with fruit juice. I introduced myself and I explained what my intentions were: a writer for the *Bonaire Reporter*, always on the road, looking for interesting vehicles. And now I found another one!

The name of the owner of the electric folding bike is: Per Magnussen. He is from Sweden and he bought his bike some one year and a half ago, second hand, but it looked like new. Per says, "I don't own a car as I don't need one and I don't like to stand in line at a fuel station. My eye fell on a classified in one of those papers. An electric bicycle was for sale. Among other things I am interested in alternative energy, in wind and in solar power. This bike seemed to fit me. I bought it. It was almost brand new and in very good condition. Its construction is simple and rigid. I never fold it or unfold it. I never fiddle around with the electronics and wires in the battery box. I just use it for the purpose it is made for. Most parts of this bicycle are made of aluminum and the vehicle can cope quite well with the salty Bonairean environment.

Power comes from three 12-Volt batteries. The battery pack is in the center of the bike, just under the seat. I just have to

home. The battery pack is getting a little weak now, but still there is enough energy to bring me to my work and back home again. This bike is made in China. All stickers on the bike read, 'Santa Barbara Electric Bicycle Company.' There is a lot of information about the bike and the factory on the internet. I am a technician and I am interested in electrical power, power from the sun and from the wind. This bike fits me in more ways!

On the internet I found 'Amped.' They are from the States. For about 400 bucks they deliver a kit for every bike. The kit exists of a power pack, some electronics, handlebars, some cables and a custom-made front or rear wheel with an electric unit to fit your particular bike. This way you can easily convert any normal bike on earth into a bike powered by electricity. That will be my new project!"

I am impressed by the bicycle and by the personality of Per Magnussen and the enthusiasm. During our interesting talk it appears Per has a job at Lelle's shipyard. Now an electric led-lamp slightly starts to glow above my head. I once wrote an article about Lelle Davidson and his red Vespa 150cc two-stroke scooter. There was another scooter, a blue one, covered by a tarpaulin to protect it against the elements. The two-wheeler was waiting and ready for restoration. Per and I had met before! We smile and shake hands again.

Per and I, we share similar ideas and fantasies! Then he "starts" his electric bike and moves the "throttle." Per whispers away on his reliable two wheeler, with a sunrise on his face, heading for the future...

■Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



Green Fingers Plantage mi Ramada

Green Fingers is a new Reporter feature brought to you by Carla Hay and guest writers whose aim it is to write about people on Bonaire growing things for whatever reason: to make their own medicines, to just admire the beauty of the flowers, to eat themselves or to feed to their live stock, experimental agriculture or about people who just want a beautiful garden.

Gardens, farms, shade houses, local vegetation will all feature in these articles as well as advice on what to grow where, what plants can be used for what ailments, what plants will withstand direct sun, low water and which plants are best to plant should you want to avoid having them as lizard, insect or iguana feed. There will also be advice on how best to deter insects and animals without resorting to chemicals or how to make your own compost heap, recycling your left over food and efficient use of water for your garden.

Another aim is to encourage people to grow their own food in whatever small way they can. Growing your own is fun, healthy, cheap and very rewarding. Events will be organized where those who do grow their own can invite those who would like to into their gardens/farms so that they can learn firsthand what is involved and receive some ongoing help to ensure success.

Competitions for the biggest, most tastiest, and healthiest looking vegetable/fruit grown are planned with categories for children and adults.

Further planned is an annual "Open Garden Event" whereby people open up their gardens/farms to the public to show them what they have done. An entrance fee would be charged and drinks/snacks offered and any money raised would be shared between two selected charities for

that year. Anybody interested in taking part in this should email carla.hayc@gmail.com to register their interest. Ideally a geographic spread of gardens would suit from the top to the bottom of the island.

Anybody who would like to feature in these articles or has any ideas should also contact Carla at the above email address to arrange a meeting. - Carla Hay

Just beyond Rincon on the road to Gotomeer, well hidden away, lies Plantage mi Ramada. Four years ago Marjan Swagerman started work there with a vision of turning the old disco, night club and illegal dump into an ecological farm.

Marjan's aim was to grow fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices without using any chemicals to either protect her plants or to make them grow. Now Marjan has turned the place into a beautiful, peaceful ecological farm where she grows plants that are either edible or can be turned into a medicine to help with all sorts of minor ailments.

80% of the time materials used are recycled such as old pallets she finds, wood from the beach, old cardboard, stones and plastic buckets.

She uses products from her farm to make the most delicious savory and sweet muffins I have ever eaten. She also makes jams, sambal oelek and an almond, ginger and limoenchi cordial.

It is hard work but extremely rewarding and especially good for the mind, body and soul. Her passion and attention to detail in tending her plants is infectious. At present she manages alone, with the company of her two lovely Bonairean dogs Nina and Ruby, watering, weeding, feeding, harvesting and most of all preventing lizards, iguanas, goats, donkeys, birds, pigs and bugs from eating her precious plants and hard won small scale crops. She seems to be winning the battle against the larger animals with secure hedging in the form of cacti and goat wire, but the eternal struggle with the iguanas and lizards goes on. Ruby and Nina do their best but it is a rather large area for them to cover in the heat. Bugs are easily controlled as she grows plants along side each other so that one plant will feed the other to strengthen it, and a strong plant is one that is more able to withstand the onslaught of bugs.

Mixed planting also ensures protection from damaging insects as well as encouraging good ones like lady birds who will eat other bugs. That way she avoids the use of pesticides and herbicides. At present she is looking into a method researched by Masa-



Marjan Swagerman in the garden

nobu Fukuoka who wrote "The One-Straw Revolution" to protect seeds from being eaten by birds using clay to mask the smell of the seed and help them sprout when there is enough rain.

Marjan's next project is to grow sorghum and other crops like corn in patches of 2m x 4m. The area will be prepared by fencing it off for protection, laying down cardboard, fallen leaves, cut grass, twigs, chicken manure and soil. After about four weeks when the seeds have sprouted and grown into healthy young plants in her shaded area the prepared area will be ready to provide a fertile ground for the adult plant to grow. Her aim is also to ecologically grow larger crops to prove that it is possible for Bonaire to not only be ecological but also to produce 5 - 10% of its own food.

Marjan is always on the lookout for large pieces of cardboard, old irrigation system piping, chicken manure, pallets, large containers in which to collect water as water has to be delivered and anything else that she might be able to use. Should you feel inclined to learn about growing your own food ecologically then she would love to have you help her for a few hours. You will be rewarded with knowledge as well as a homemade muffin and cordial to enjoy on the breezy terrace overlooking her plantage. Please contact Marjan via email should you be able to help her marjanswagerman@gmail.com.

■ Carla Hay



Lighthouses (Continued from page 11)

visit, the technician put his foot on the gas pedal and we drove back to the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park and went via Lake Gotomeer in the direction of Playa Frans.

When we arrived at the **Wecua light** we had a new surprise. That morning they had just taken down the old mast on which the new solar powered lights had been mounted a few years ago. Of course they took off the light before taking the old mast down. The technician did a quick check-up, but the light was waiting safely in the little barn, close to the mast, to be put back on top of the new mast afterwards. The construction workers were working very hard; they had to because the light should work, on top of the new and taller mast, before dark! We left them to finish the work. We had to hurry because the technician had to go back before dark to check whether the light really was working properly!

Then to the south, to visit the **Willemstoren lighthouse**. From a distance we could already see that it was well plastered and painted. We opened the door with a key and we were able to go up the stairs. The stairs are interrupted by four platforms, all of original wood. The balustrade had to be renewed for safety reasons. On the east side the windows are covered with Plexiglas to protect the wood against the almost always strong and salty easterly trade winds. Again, from the top, you have this amazing view. The technician was not enjoying the view as much because he had to work hard to finish his inspection on time before dark to go back to Wecua to check the light on the new mast.

The new Willemstoren light was placed on top in a spectacular way. The Dutch Navy ship *Abraham Crijnsen* was in port and had a helicopter on deck. The Radio Holland technician, who is a former Navy man, thought it would be a good practice assignment to have the Navy boys and girls place it on top by a helicopter. And they did it, not easy with the strong wind. This lighthouse will not be open to the public.

We ran out of time so the technician had to drive back to Wecua to check the light and bring me home. We missed the lights of Spelonk and Klein Bonaire and Malmok in the Park, so a week later I visited them by myself. ■

Story & Photos by Wilna Groenenboom



To be continued...

Happy Faces at Bonaire Sailing School Association.

Last week Ton Nuijten, chairman of the BSSA, presented all the 11 new sponsored Optimist sails to the public, the press and the sponsors: **Gio's Gelateria & Cafe, DHL, Warehouse Bonaire, Streefkerk Architects + Consultants and Budget Marine.**

After an ice cream and a glass of champagne the kids went sailing, proudly showing the new sails.

Now the kids can practice for the Dia di Bonaire Races (Sept. 6) and the Bonaire Regatta with the great new perfect sails! A good start for a new sailing season.

They say, "Masha Danki, Thank you all sponsors!"

BSSA is organizing an Open House at Kas di Regatta on Bonaire Day, September 6th. Come out and enjoy races. ■ Press release



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, August 31-Taste of Bonaire, 6-10 pm, Wilhelmina Park. Food, Music and Fun

Saturday, September 1 -Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #44, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-noon.

-Bonaire Animal Shelter Book Fair & Flea Market, 11am-5pm, at the Shelter on Lagoen Road

September 1, 2- First International Yoga and Ayurveda Convention on Bonaire. Presented by Vivek Yogi from Rishilesh, India. At Landhouse Wanapa. See page 4 for more info.

Sunday September 2 – Jong Bonaire 9th Mini Fun Triathlon: Swim, Run, Bike. Starts 7am. Sign up September 1, 17:30 at City Café. Cost: \$14 per person or \$30 per team – You get food, T-shirt, water, fruit.

Sprint Class: Swim-750M., Bike-18.2K, Run-5K

Olympic Class: Swim1500M, Bike-36.4K, Run-10K

Kids to 14 Class: Swim-200M, Bike-8K, Run-3K

Thursday, September 6 –Bonaire Day—Celebrations all day. Special appearance of Maskarada. Schedule on pg. 17.

-Bonaire Sailing School Association Open House. Come see the sailboat races, Regatta House

Sunday, September 9—Town Pier Cleanup Dive, sponsored by Dive Friends

Wednesday, September 12—Bonaire's first opportunity to vote in Dutch Parliamentary Elections. More on page 3.

Saturday, September 22 - Dive Friends Bonaire underwater cleanup



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 1-7 pm. Entrance fee: \$1 per child, \$1.50 per adult. Saturdays open for free. Closed Sundays.

Saturdays

• **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar**, Flea market tables are \$10 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.

• **Girls Night Out at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. 3-course menu \$25, 1/2 price martinis and house wine bottle

• **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.

Happy Hour party at Bistro Di Paris. Ricky Thomas performs Reggae, Soul, Latin and more 6 - 9pm

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 Jatu Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

• **Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

• **Lions Club** meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

• **Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-

9446.

• **Toastmasters Club** meets every two weeks. For more information call Cruscita 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 Daisycoffee@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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Why Yoga?

Bonaire has always been my example of a community that aims to integrate with a diversity of cultures, nationalities and languages.

Yoga is about integrating body, mind and breath. Guiding people in a yoga practice, whether it be a gentle, vigorous, restorative, teen, or kids yoga, is a gift that I wish to share in our community of Bonaire.

If you're new to yoga, there are many things you can do to make every class enjoyable and appropriate for your body and your needs. Remember, the MOST important point is to ENJOY, while practicing safely and mindfully.

Let the teacher know if you are new to yoga or if you have any injuries or medical conditions that might affect your practice.

Practice at your level

Avoid over stretching, straining, or competing with others. Yoga is non-competitive, so be sure to rest when needed. Yoga is a lifetime practice that will keep you interested and challenged. There will always be ways to take it deeper, find new ways to correct your alignment. Listen to your breath and body language. Be mindful. Take the time to understand the postures or movement and approach it at your own pace. By paying close attention to your alignment and movement, even challenging postures will eventu-

ally become possible.

Allow your attention to flow through your body, searching for those places where you store tension and tightness, breathe and encourage those muscles to relax so that your energy can flow through.

Give importance to your breath and use it as a guide. This is an extremely important aspect of practicing yoga and in most cases, it is even more important than the actual postures. In general, we inhale when we stretch upward or backward, expanding the body – and exhale when we bend downward or forward, compressing the body. If you cannot breathe smoothly and deeply while in a challenging posture, you may be working too hard or could be at risk of injuring yourself. Stretching safely while applying appropriate effort usually deepens the breath. In contrast, strain of any kind (including working too hard or pushing too hard in a stretch) is usually accompanied by shallow or forced breathing. (Better to ease up a bit, re-establish your breath, and then re-approach the posture with deep mindful breaths while working your edge.)

Take Responsibility for Yourself

YOU are your own best teacher... your safety, health, and well-being is YOUR responsibility – no one else's. (Nobody knows you better than you!)



We would like to congratulate Laura Stefani for completing her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training course.

Three years ago Laura started practicing yoga with us. She is a very dedicated yoga practitioner. Seeing someone transform in their yoga practice on and off the mat is a tremendous gift which yoga provides. I was very fortunate to be one of her students at our Yoga Bonaire studio the other day.

With a soft touch of a swirling Italian accent, her voice led me from one asana (posture) to another. It was a great practice! Thank you for being one of my greatest Teachers in life!

Your body is always in the present moment, your mind wanders off to the past or is traveling off to the future.

Your breath is the bridge, bringing mind and body to this present moment.

Breathe with full awareness. ■

Desiree

-New Classes:

Vigorous yoga: 10 September 6pm and 11 September, 8am

-Yoga for kids (ages 4 to 10): 13 September, 4:45pm

-Prenatal yoga on the 15 September, 9:30 am

Fishing Line Project



Playa Lechi/Kralendijk -

On Sunday, August 12, at 10 o'clock in the morning, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) teamed up with Dive Friends of Bonaire to host the 5th clean up dive at Town Pier. Get together and instructions about how to recover fishing line without damaging the coral were at the Yellow Submarine location at Playa Lechi. The clean up dive was very successful with 15 experienced divers collecting over a **hundred liters of fishing line!** The divers not only found lots of fishing line but got an extra treat when one of the divers discov-

ered a cute sea horse!

Thank you to Dive Friends of Bonaire for hosting the dive and to all of the divers that have helped clean up Bonaire's seas in support of the Fishing Line Project. The Fishing Line Project is being run by STCB in partnership with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and is working towards freeing our coral reefs from fishing debris which can entrap our endangered sea turtles. Next Town Pier clean up dive is on **Sunday 9th September**. Do write this down in your diary! ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

or 786-2692 for more information. ■

Author Desiree Seaver's prenatal yoga classes are for those who wish to learn how to breathe, stretch and relax during the nine months of challenging changes. Call 786-6416

see complete schedule at: www.aplaceforyoubonaire.com info@aplaceforyoubonaire.com

Program Dia di Boneiru in Tera Kòrà

09:30 – 10:25 Arrival of officials and invited guests. Welcome by Master of Ceremonies, uniformed group march accompanied by the Drum Band. Official installation of the JICN marching platoon, flag raising and the Bonaire anthem by the Silver Bullet Band.
10:25 – 10:40 Religious Service
10:40 – 10:50 Speech by Commissioner for Culture, Silvana Serfilia
10:50 – 11:00 Comments on the Art of Speech
11:00 – 11:10 Speech by Governor dr. Lydia A. Emerencia;

11:10 – 11:25 Honoring citizens presented by Miss Boneiru. Xavira Janga
11:25 – 11:30 Maskarada show followed by local partying;
11:30 – 11:50 Stars of Bonaire finalists
11:50 – 11:55 Motorcycle Parade by Bonaire Bikers Club, Aruba, Kòrsou;
11:55-12:00 Close of official functions
12:00-13:00 Free drinks, music by Silver Bullet Steel Band
12:00 – 22:50 Cultural shows presented by FESBO / Tera Kòrà Commission
23:00 Close
 ■ *Press release*

MCB Change

Following the retirement of MCB-Bonaire Managing Director Evert Piar in November 2012, a new management team will take the helm at Maduro & Curriel's Bank (Bonaire) NV.

This management team will be headed by Leonard Domacassé as Director and will consist of:

- **Rudy Gomez-** Deputy Managing Director responsible for Risk, Security and Protection, Internal Audit, and Finance
- **Eithel Vriend-** Assistant Managing Director, responsible for Retail Banking: Kasfilialen, Sales & Service, Bank Cards and Investments
- **Steve van Delden,** Assistant Managing Director in charge of Business Support: Banking Operations, IT and Administrative

units (Shared Services)
 - **Ingrid Fenies-** Assistant to Management in charge of Legal Division, Compliance, Marketing and Promotion
 - **Dudley Wedervoort-** Assistant to the Managing Director responsible for the Credit Department.

Orphaline Saleh, currently Assistant Managing Director, Retail Banking and Marketing, has decided on a new challenge and on 1 September will begin another career. ■ *Press release*



Leonard Domacassé

On October 21st Bonaire will again host a major mountain-bike event: Duo Xtreme Bonaire. After last year's success the organization has decided that this will be a yearly event. Over 100 participants from Aruba, Curaçao, Venezuela, Colombia, The Netherlands, USA and Bonaire are expected and they will compete for the prize money of over \$3500. This year the riders can choose between two routes: **A Pro route of 51 km and an Xtreme route of 83 km.** Both routes will be an extreme and challenging mountain-bike trail throughout a large part of Bonaire's most beautiful nature. The riders will compete in pairs, hence 'duo xtreme'. Start and Finish will take place at Divi Flamingo Resort where many spectators are expected. The award ceremony starts at 12pm. Registration will be at Divi Flamingo Resort on Friday October 19th, and Saturday, the 20th, from 5– 7 pm. Xtreme Sports Bonaire Foundation takes care of the organization of this event. For more information: bonairextreme@hotmail.com / www.mtbbonaire.com/ +599 7805021. Facebook: Bonaire Xtreme MTB. ■ *Press release*



Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

4	8	2	8	1	5	9	2	7
5	1	8	9	7	2	2	8	4
2	7	9	8	4	4	8	5	1
1	2	5	4	8	7	2	9	8
9	2	8	1	5	2	4	7	8
7	8	4	2	8	9	1	2	5
2	9	1	5	4	8	7	8	2
8	5	2	7	9	1	8	4	2
8	4	7	2	2	8	5	1	9

Pet of the Week

“Quintus” is one of the most popular pups in the kennel he shares with the other dogs. Although he’s young, only eight months old, he’s developed a fine character. He gets along with all of the other, be they big, medium or small. And with people he’s very affectionate and loving. This guy really deserves a chance at a good home with an appreciative owner or family. Quintus is a medium sized dog with short, easy-to-care-for fawn colored fur with white and black accents and an alert and intelligent face. He’s been checked out by the vet, is healthy, has had his shots and tests. The dog adoption fee includes all this plus sterilization. You may see Quintus and the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. See the Shelter website for all up-to-date information, photos and videos: BonaireAnimalShelter.com ■ Laura Desalvo



“Quintus”

completed. The kennel’s construction was



This is the spacious new kennel. Photo inset is the old “wired-together kennel.”

SHELTER NEWS:

Book And Flea Market At The Shelter

This Saturday, September 1, the Shelter will host a big Book and Flea Market from 11 am to 5 pm at the Shelter on Lagoen Road. It’s being held to also celebrate the official opening of the spacious new kennel that was recently

made possible by money from the Shelter Auction as well as a contribution from Dier.nu, a Dutch association that gives money to organizations that care for pets.

Back to the Book and Flea Market – The Shelter can still use more items to sell. If you have some things, bring them in to the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, or if



In Memory Bullet.

Born on Bonaire January 2005
Died in Scotland August 2012.

A loyal friend.
-Tony & Terry

New Bonaire Dive Guide

Bonaire/Kralendijk –

Just recently a new dive guide book about Bonaire was launched, *Duikgids Bonaire*. The dive guide was written by Marloes Otten from the Netherlands and is in Dutch, but there will be an English version in November 2012.

The guide describes over 100 dive locations and is 280 pages long, printed in full color. The new dive guide book is available at, among other locations, Dive Retail Outlet and Yellow Submarine (“Without blue there is no green”), from Dive Friends Bonaire. For \$ 39.50 you can become the owner of around a pound of useful information about 103 dive locations. The guide is loaded with over 100 beautiful and recently taken photographs of fish, coral, locations and ship wrecks. A list in the back of the guide informs you about which photographers contributed to the book. The book cover folds out and is made of more or less water resistant thick paper. A clear full color map of Bonaire and the island of Klein Bonaire helps you to find all the dive locations. A legend informs you about beaches, dive locations, dive entrees, buoys, canons, ship wrecks, anchors, corals and turtles. There is also a list with names of fishes, sponges, coral and arthropods in Dutch, English and Latin. Now we are able to learn that a “koffervis” is a trunkfish is a *Lactophrys triponus*.

All dive locations are described extensively, most times on two pages. There is



An interested blond Bonairean youngster, blue nail polish and an engagement ring, reading about the colorful underwater world of her beloved Caribbean island.

always a full color picture and a clear map. Interesting is the background information about, for instance, the Hilma Hooker, the vessel in which the Bonairean customs finally found about 11,000 kilograms of marihuana. Historical photographs from a private collection are included.

This dive guide book is a nice contribution to the information about the underwater world of Bonaire. I can’t wait until the English edition is published. ■ Book review & photo by J@n Brouwer

you can’t give them a call at 717-4989 and they can arrange pick up. You can’t get better than that and you’re contributing to a very fine cause – the Shelter which provides a healthy and happy place for unwanted cats and dogs.

Good News: “Irma,” the beautiful calico cat who was Pet of the Week in the last Reporter, has been adopted. Congratulations to Irma and her new owners and we wish them a happy and loving life together! ■ Laura DeSalvo

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From Bonaire Nautico Marina



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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE HARVEST MOON

In traditional skilore, the **Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the Autumnal Equinox**. In 2012, the **Autumnal Equinox comes on September 22**. The full moon for us in the Sky Park will come on the night of September 29. **That makes the September 29-30 full moon the Harvest Moon.**

There's also a name for the full moon after the Harvest Moon. It's called the **Hunter's Moon**, and it will come this year on **October 29**.

Why is the Harvest Moon special? Nature is particularly cooperative around the time of the Autumnal Equinox to make the full moonrises unique around this time.

Here's what happens. On average, the moon rises about 50 minutes later each day. But when a full moon happens close to the autumnal equinox, the moon rises earlier daily for several days before and after the full Harvest moon. Why? The reason is that the **ecliptic – or the moon's orbital path** – makes a narrow angle with the evening horizon around the time of the autumn equinox. The narrow angle of the ecliptic results in a shorter-than-usual rising time between successive moonrises around the full Harvest Moon.

What is the ecliptic? These early evening moonrises are what make every Harvest Moon special. Every full moon rises around sunset. The lag time between successive moonrises shrinks to a yearly minimum, as described in the paragraph above. Because of this, it seems as if there are several full moons – for several nights in a row – around the time of the Harvest Moon.

Is the Harvest Moon bigger, or brighter or more colorful? Not necessarily, but the actual size of the Harvest Moon depends on the year. The Harvest Moon has the reputation of being especially big and bright and orange. But it isn't really the Harvest Moon's size or brightness that distinguishes it from other full moons. In fact, this year's Harvest Moon



is a touch smaller than an average-sized full moon.

Still, you might think otherwise. That's because the Harvest Moon has such a powerful mystique. Many people look for it shortly after sunset around the time of full moon. After sunset around any full moon, the moon will always be near the horizon. It will just have risen. It's the location of the moon near the horizon that causes the Harvest Moon – or any full moon – to look big and orange in color. The orange color of a moon near the horizon is a true physical effect. It stems from the fact that – when you look toward the horizon – you are looking through a greater thickness of **Earth's** atmosphere than when you gaze up and overhead. The atmosphere scatters blue light – that's why the sky looks blue. The greater thickness of atmosphere in the direction of a horizon scatters blue light most effectively, but it lets red light pass through to your eyes. So a moon near the horizon takes on a yellow or orange or reddish hue.

The bigger-than-usual size of a moon seen near the horizon is something else entirely. It's a trick that your eyes are playing – an illusion – called the **Moon Illusion**. You can get lengthy explanations of the Moon Illusion by Googling those words yourself. ■ *Dean Regas*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

September 2012

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Get ready to do some fancy footwork when it comes to taking care of your financial situation. Be up front if you don't want to be embarrassed. Mingle with individuals who are established and can give you some serious insight into business and future trends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. You will have a problem holding on to your cash this month. Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda. Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. You may experience setbacks due to additional responsibilities with loved ones. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Learn some new skills that will increase your income. Compromise may be necessary. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Don't blow situations out of proportion or you could find that others will misinterpret what really happened. Your luckiest events will be on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. Be sure to get involved with those who can introduce you to unusual forms of entertainment. You are best to avoid confrontations. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Relationships will form if you get out and do things that you enjoy. Be primed to use your intellect in order to get what you want. Don't use the interstate as a race-track. Don't think the worst if you hear something negative about your partner. Your luckiest events will be on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Get rich quick schemes will not be successful. Make changes that will enhance your appearance. You can't always have your own way. Your versatile mind and common sense will allow you to come up with various solutions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must deal with an emotional problem with your loved one that you have been avoiding for some time now. Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. You might want to spend some time by yourself in order to decide exactly how you feel.

Your mate needs extra attention and is feeling rather insecure when you're not in sight. Your support and concern will help. Your luckiest events will be on a Sunday. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your need to be in a leadership position will help you surpass any rivals you might encounter. Try not to lend or borrow money this month. Be diplomatic when dealing with in-law. You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Rely on the one you love for support and affection. You are best to stick to yourself this month. Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. They won't pay you back and you'll be upset. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your mate will appreciate your honesty. Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Change will be required to make your life more harmonious. Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club. You need to get out and have some fun to reduce tension. Take time to relax. Stress and pressure at home may have worn you ragged. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday. ■

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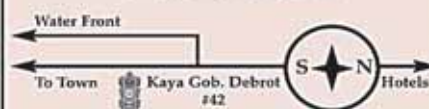
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Asking price: US\$ 350,000 (including furnishings)

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