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BONAIRE November 9 -23, 2012, Year 19, Issue 22

The REPORTER

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Bonaire Halloween

Halloween Witch Corine Gerharts conjures up some candy

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



The invitation-only Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) reception at the Flamingo Runway Retreat to **mourn the shut-down of operational activities of the Dutch broadcaster on Bonaire** was a lot like a New Orleans funeral: jazz music, drinks, food, eulogies and just a touch of sadness. Station officials, union leaders and government officials lamented the closing with mostly positive comments and expressed their gratitude for its contribution to the island over the past 44 years. A victim of Dutch government budget cuts and advancing technology, the last normally scheduled broadcast from the station was on June 30 this year. From October 28, RNW will hire airtime from another broadcaster. RWN's Eric Beauchemin announced, "The Bonaire relay station will be dismantled. All that will remain is a field." Removal of valuable copper wire from the site is already complete, outgoing station manager Hans Linkels told *The Reporter*.

The future of the large site in the picturesque Colombia plantation area of Bonaire is undecided. It includes a relatively large multi-generator power station rebuilt after a fire in the RWN powerhouse a dozen years ago.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW) started building the Bonaire relay station in 1968 to improve reception for Dutch people living in North, Central and South America as well as New Zealand and Australia. The relay station, with two of the world's most powerful transmitters (300 kW) at the time, was officially inaugurated a year later.

► **Property tax decrees (assessments) have been sent out recently to homeowners and businesses on Bonaire.** There have been considerable objections surrounding the tax department's assessed values.

"The annual property tax, with some exceptions, would be 1% of the determined value. Assessments will be payable by the end of 2012," a tax office press release said. Property owners have two months to challenge the assessment. **See story on page 9 for more information.**

Meanwhile the State Secretary of Finance has announced a bill that aims at decreasing as of 2011 the property tax to be paid for hotels to 0.4% and for other real estate to 0.8%. Also, for 2011 the first \$50,000 of the value of second homes of individuals is exempt. Moreover, the State Secretary proposes an additional reduction of 0.2% of the tariff for the years 2011 and 2012 because the 2011 assessment will be imposed simultaneously with the 2012 assessment.

Property tax is intended for, among others, owners of a second house in Bonaire, Saba or St. Eustatius and for non-private persons (entities) that own immovable goods (real estate), the press release said. More information can be found on www.belastingdienst-cn.nl.

► **The recently announced collection of new real estate tax is seen as a hot potato.** Bottlenecks include the deterioration of liquidity for entrepreneurs who are subject to tax regardless of profits or losses and adverse financial impact for entrepreneurs who have "big ticket" properties such as the hotel and tourist accommodation sector. The tourist industry, the mainstay of the Bonaire economy, is already under pressure with rising costs and competition on the one hand and a decreasing demand and operating efficiency on the other.

The announced changes to the property tax, including tariff differentiation for vulnerable industries and individuals, creating an investment facility, tariff reduction and the additional compensation for the simultaneous application of the years 2011 and 2012 are a welcome relief for entrepreneurs, investors and taxpayers. With an active and innovative

business and an attractive business climate tax Bonaire can build on its sustainable development.

► **Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba have decided not to opt for their own Ombudsman** but to leave it up to the Dutch office. The Island Council of Bonaire unanimously approved such, albeit under conditions. One of those is that the Ombudsman's representative on the island is familiar with the culture of the island and has a good command of the Papiamentu language. The other two islands also agreed to keep the Dutch Ombudsman. This means that the Dutch office will handle complaints from local citizens against government actions.

During the discussion on this subject, opposition leader Robby Beukenboom (PDB) said he regretted that the authority doesn't offer citizens the possibility to file complaints against government-owned companies, considering the many concerns about water and electricity rates for example.

► **Incoming Dutch finance minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem warned of tough times ahead** given the new coalition government between his Labour party and Prime Minister Mark Rutte's Liberals. He has already agreed to nearly 16 billion euros (\$21 billion) in budget cuts and takes a tough line on the euro zone crisis. Dijsselbloem, 46, graduated from Wageningen University, the most prestigious center for agricultural studies in the Netherlands. According to a television reporter, he raised three pigs in his garden.

► On all three Dutch Caribbean islands, inflation was lower in the third quarter of 2012 than in the previous quarter. On Bonaire inflation was 2.3%, on St. Eustatius it was 4.6% and on Saba it was 3%. The main causes of the decreases are lower prices for electricity on St. Eustatius and Saba and lower food price increases on Bonaire and Saba.

Inflation on Bonaire was 2.3% in the third quarter. This is 0.7% lower than in the second quarter of 2012. The decrease was mainly caused by the much smaller increase in food prices in the third quarter, 3%, than in the second quarter, when it was 6%. Prices of alcoholic drinks, tobacco and home furnishings also had a downward effect on inflation.

► **The Netherlands, one of a handful of economies in the euro zone still holding a triple AAA credit rating,** is expected to remain a firm ally of Germany, which opposes more aid to euro zone members struggling with high debt.

► **KLM may reduce its workforce** by at least 1,300 people in an effort to cut costs, the *Telegraaf* reported on Wednesday, October 31. The paper says unions and management have been in talks on a new collective pay deal for some time and the talks were broken off on Tuesday, October 30. At that point unions went public with the number of threatened lay-offs. A spokesman for the airline refused to confirm or deny the reports, the paper said.

Parent company, Air France-KLM, said on Wednesday it had booked net profit of 306 million euros in the third quarter of this year, compared with just 14 million euros in the year-earlier period.

► **On Sunday, November 18, Bonaire will have its traditional Thanksgiving Day - Dia di Grasia.** It's the time for Bonaire's people to donate the things they no longer use or need to the less fortunate. Donate items in **good condition** for free donation to needy families on Bonaire. Call Meredith Nicolaas (786-2024), Shela Winklaar (510-7412) or Mamita Fox (796-1919) for more information. Drop donations before November 18 if you wish at Kaya Jhony Nicolaas 2 (across from WEB office next to the

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) snack). Give-away will be in the playground behind the big Catholic church in Playa on November 18.



RBC's Verna Silberie, Elsa Domacassé, Natasha Martina, Sherwin Pourier and Amanda Kluyver-van Wilgen (Curaçao)

► Bonaire's newest bank, **RBC Royal Bank**, last week introduced prepaid **VISA travel cards** touted as "the smart way to carry cash around the world." While similar to other prepaid cash cards it has useful features. Not only can the card be denominated in US dollars or euros, it can reload from a users account on-line or at any local RBC branch. It is a more secure way to make payments during this time of ATM restrictions that protect against fraud. Steven Coutinho, RBC area vice-president, explained the features of the new card to the press at a press conference at Eddy's Gourmandise last Wednesday. More information is available at a RBC branch, 717-4500 or www.rbc.com/caribbean.

► Last month **Tiara Air** opened a new reservation office at Bonaire's **Flamingo Airport** Bonaire and inaugurated its new Boe-



ing 737 aircraft. Tiara is based in Aruba and flies between the ABC islands and onward from its Aruba hub.

► **THE HAGUE--The Dutch work the lowest average number of hours** of all Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, according to new research by the Paris-based organization and quoted by BNR radio. Dutch people with a job now work an average 1,379 hours a year, compared with the OECD average of 1,776 hours. This is probably due to the popularity of part-time work in The Netherlands. Two thirds of women and one in four men in The Netherlands work less than a 36-hour week. By contrast, the average Greek worker is 2,032 hours on the job, while Spaniards work 1,690 hours.

However, Dutch workers have an average 30 days of holiday a year, including public holidays. This is below the European Union (EU) average of 34.4 days, according to research published by Eurofound last year

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New Dutch Government

The new Dutch cabinet will probably be sworn in this week, either on Monday, Thursday or Friday, Prime Minister Mark Rutte confirmed. Rutte will take a business trip to Turkey next week and the new team of ministers - 12 full ministers and seven junior ministers - can be sworn in either before or after he goes.

Once ministers are sworn in, they traditionally appear for a photograph with the monarch at the Noordeinde palace.

The cabinet (unconfirmed):

Prime minister: Mark Rutte (VVD)
Deputy prime minister and social affairs: Lodewijk Asscher (PvdA)
Finance: Jeroen Dijsselbloem (PvdA)
Justice: Ivo Opstelten (VVD, unchanged)
Health: Edith Schippers (VVD, unchanged)
Infrastructure: Melanie Schultz (VVD, unchanged)
Education: Jet Bussemaker (PvdA)
Home affairs: Ronald Plasterk (PvdA)
Foreign affairs: Frans Timmermans (PvdA)
Foreign trade and development aid: Lilianne Ploumen (PvdA)
Economic affairs: Henk Kamp (VVD)
Defence: Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (VVD)
Housing and government services: Stef Blok (VVD)

The new coalition of right-wing VVD and Labour party (PvdA) outlined its strategy. The Dutch papers and opposition politicians gave the plans a mixed reaction.

The *Telegraaf* thinks the brunt of the cut backs announced in the new government accord will be borne by the higher income groups while the lower income groups will benefit. Unfair, the paper writes.

Trouw calls the accord "brave and with-

out taboos." Samsom and Rutte have not hesitated to tackle all the major issues and have managed to come up with "anything but a cheap compromise."

"Building bridges turned out to be more important than realizing party political wishes." The new government is a result of 10 years of political instability: "The country was gasping for a stable coalition," the paper writes.

The *Reformatisch Dagblad* and the *Christelijk Dagblad* don't like the fact that there is nothing in the accord about changing the time limit for abortion or banning prostitution. There is not much room for God in the accord and "that is not a good thing for society," the papers opine.

PVV leader Geert Wilders: "These are not the measures the Netherlands is waiting for. These are destructive and mistaken choices that will have the wrong effect. The measures are bad for the economy, employment and the ordinary Dutchman."

D66 leader Alexander Pechtold: "We have to make sure it is financially worth working. The costs of this agreement are weighing heavily on the shoulders of workers and companies. That means the new coalition is discouraging work, which will damage the economic recovery... not investing more in education is a missed opportunity." ■ G.D.



PM Mark Rutte

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What Comes After the Tourists Leave?

A guest editorial about what is happening to a destination that is courting cruise tourism in lieu of stay-over tourism. Also, what will happen to a destination that ignores the need to attract clean industry?

This may seem like a dumb question but if we take a look at what is happening here on Bonaire it may not be too long before the question will be in need of an answer. Right now for our livelihood we are dependent upon what is spent by 60,000 to 70,000 stay-over visitors and more than 200,000 day trippers off the cruise ships

What is the long range plan for when these bodies no longer disembark from the bowels of the megaships or divers, snorkelers, windsurfers, etc. are beyond their prime and the demographics have changed and Bonaire has changed and the destination has lost its charm as an off the beaten track less traveled hide-away? The land use issues were never considered and the population will overtake the ecosystem and go from 16,000 souls to 60,000. Impossible you say, but just look at Aruba. True, we are not our sister island's clone, but we have never planned for the out-of-control growth our new overlords seem to want from us.

As an environmentally conscious destination Bonaire has used tourism as the engine that drives growth and development of the island's economy. Seen as a "clean" industry, it is often considered as a means to enhance the economic success of the work force. In undeveloped areas with a particularly appealing natural resource base, nature tourism (ecotourism) inevitably is considered a prime target for development. Public consensus is especially important in areas where development is being considered and it should be con-

tingent upon the support of local residents. Tourist destinations are doomed to eventual self-destruction if residents are opposed to development. One point is clear: if the constructive impact of tourism is to be realized, collaborative approaches between diverse stakeholder groups will be needed. A reasonable degree of consensus between residents and members of the business community about the desired direction of tourism development is an important ingredient of long-term success.

Why is tourism development particularly dependent on positive attitudes of local residents? Tourism, unlike many forms of development, carries "the seeds of its own destruction."

We can visualize a destination moving across a spectrum, however gradually or slowly, but far too often inexorably, toward the potential of its own demise. Destination areas carry with them the potential seeds of their own destruction and lose their qualities which originally attracted tourists.

It is believed that tourism destinations progress through a recognizable cycle of evolution, with differing stages of popularity. There are six stages through which tourist areas pass: *exploration, involvement, development, consolidation, stagnation, and decline*. Changes in the physical and social environment can result in a decline of the tourism industry.

Too many tourists can place a burden on a community both environmentally and socially. If the residents of the host community perceive tourism as counterproductive to their welfare, then an attitude of negativity may be shown toward tourists. Repercussions from this may include feelings on the part of the tourists of being unwelcome, resulting in fewer visitations.



If residents are uncomfortable with increasing tourist numbers, their attitudes may change over time. In creating an index of resident attitudes, this phenomenon starts with euphoria that tourism will provide an economic boon to the community and progresses on a continuum until antagonism occurs when residents feel overwhelmed by tourists. The result of this animosity on the part of local residents may be a decline in tourism. It is vital therefore, that communities interested in tourism development plan for sustainable growth. One method of ensuring that the desires of the community are reflected in planning and policy decisions that support sustainable growth is the assessment of resident attitudes.

Generally positive attitudes toward tourism may reflect the incipient or early stage of tourism development in the area. For most residents, the economic benefits generally outweigh the negative consequences. Tourism is frequently believed to be less damaging to the environment and to place less strain on infrastructure than many other types of development, while providing at least some employment opportunities.

Community values and objectives change incrementally when increasing tourism. Incremental change is rarely controlled and becomes problematic from a planner's viewpoint. The significance of incremental change is that it involves many decision-makers who are interested in starting projects, not in halting development. *Tourism development is*

easily started if people with capital to invest become interested. Growth is particularly difficult to curtail when market conditions appear to favor business expansion. The role of government is reflected in policies that favor tourism development that tends to increase the pressures on host communities by stimulating incremental development. Community values and goals need to be identified, with the social consequences of different levels of tourism development evaluated against these values and goals. Thus, a community-oriented plan as opposed to a business-oriented plan should be implemented.

The private sector is more attuned to profit maximization than socio-economic benefits and believes that a desired balance of development will not be gained without government intervention to ensure resident well-being. If, however, government lacks the political power or will, implementation of appropriate policy is difficult.

Community-based tourism development allows communities to pursue their own development options. Community-based economic development, enhancement of sociocultural cohesion, monitoring of social impacts over time, comprehensive social planning, and independent community decision-making should all be considered.

In essence:

It is clear that assessing resident attitudes and developing community-based plans are vital to sustainable development particularly when that development is based on tourism. The consequences of not making the public part of the planning process may inevitably be conflict, negative attitudes and a less viable path to economic growth. Resident and visitor attitudes are as important as physical/biological limitations in determining the most viable path toward growth and development. It is important that all be considered in determining the limits of growth. ■ Michael Gaynor

Edited for length

			
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On the Island Since... 1988 - Zamir Fued Ayubi

Just when I come in an accident has happened: a big cup of what seems to be ultra green lemonade has splashed over the three children, their super fancy outfits and their neatly combed hair. Everybody starts crying and hollering while daddy Zamir takes a towel and starts scrubbing and mopping. The children disappear into their mom's room and a little later they show up as new and clean and beautiful as they must have looked a second before I came in. So we take the photos first. Then Zamir picks up baby Zhea, settles her in the hollow of his arm and starts talking.

"I was born in Curaçao in 1973. My father was from Curaçao, my mother is Bonairean. My mother and father had my brother Aimer and me. Outside he had two more sons, Farid, who drives Taxi #7, and Omar, who lives in Holland. All four of us boys got the name 'Fued,' as my dad was 'Eddy' Fued Mustapha Ayubi.

When I was 14 I came to Bonaire with papa's boat, the *Zame*. We came with Aimer, the luggage and the dogs. My mother came later. I went to Mavo high school and a short while to Havo, but then I left for Aruba to study at MAO (Middle

and focused. My father had given me a car – a Suzuki Swift – and I still lived with Aunt Grace.

In 1999 I came back to Bonaire to work for TV 11 and the biggest milestone in my career as a reporter was that year when Her Majesty Queen Beatrix visited Bonaire. I had two cameramen, Ivan Wilson and Cliff Frans, and we also 'did' Hurricane Lenny. Whew! That was fun!

In 2001 I went for a couple of months to Curaçao as an accountant for Top of the World Sports Curaçao. Then I was invited by the Bonairean government to work for DEZA – the department of Economic and Labor Affairs on Bonaire. I stayed there for one and a half years, but then I had to make a very big decision in my life because if you want to become the owner of a business you can't work for the government and I was in the process of founding my own radio station, Digital 91.1 FM. I couldn't have done it without the two most important people in my life, Jose Gregorio Ostos and Edmond Croes. The partnership started October 3, 2003. So, Radio Digital is nine years old! Our first location was on Kaya Grandi 49, next to Rent-O-Fun. We became very popular because of the break-



Zamir and his beautiful family (Not pictured: Darvick, the 10-year-old son of Athena)

born 5-5-2010 and the latest edition of the Ayubi dynasty, Zhea Zamira Ayubi, born 20-06-2012."

please don't use the child as a weapon to hurt the other party. Give the child the opportunity to be a part of both parents'

"... I never thought this would happen. I'd been alone for a long time and I didn't think that I would be with someone ever again because I had been in two relationships..."

Administration Education) and lived with my mom's cousin, Grace Martijn. I finished school in three years and graduated in Junior Accountancy as the best student.

During my last year in school I married my first wife – just for the law – it didn't last long - but my first son, Zahid Salajadin Zamir Ayubi, was born on September 24th, 1997.

When we were young, at about five years of age, my brother Aimer and I had a great passion. We would imitate the Venezuelan radio reporters who were reporting the horse races, in Spanish of course. That was our thing and we were good at it! Well, my first broadcasting session was at the end of 1997, for Crystal 101.7 FM in Aruba. Then I got my own program every Saturday afternoon, 'Ambiente Kayiente.' Later on I worked for Galactica 99.9 FM where I was introduced by Roberto Geerman. Thank you, Roberto! You taught me a lot!

After I'd graduated from MAO, I was called by Deloitte and Touche accountants and I went to work for them straight away, but," *he laughs*, "I was also a model for Ronzzio de Cuba, a well known Aruban designer. I modeled three months for him. At that time I was super slim and I loved clothes, especially Hugo Boss!

Then my ex father-in-law introduced me to AVB, the Aruban Soccer Association, and after a short course I became a referee and a linesman. I also changed my job because I got a better offer from Crystal Casino as a host and accountant. I did it for awhile, then I went to work for Cordia Garage Toyota as an accountant. Every weekend I saw my son and I was tranquil

ing news with Aimer Ayubi. Aimer was also the manager. The following year, in 2004, we had to leave the location in a rush; the weather was very bad and we had so much rain and so many leaks that it became dangerous for all the equipment. Thank God everybody gave a helping hand and we moved in one day to Harbour Village Marina, then in 2008 to Kaya Dialma # 1 in Playa Pabou. We're still there, together with another radio station owned by Gregorio and me, Rumba 107.7.

"Well," *he smiles very sweetly at his wife*, "now we're going to talk about the most important thing. In 2005 at Harbour Village I met someone during the Chippie event. She came to pick up a T-shirt and her name was Athena Reina. We became friends. We were mostly on the phone – we didn't see each other much because both our mothers and her stepfather were against it. On our first date we went for a drive and had dinner at Lion's Den. She was 17 and I was 32. Well, to make a long story short, on December 25, 2007, we got married for the law and for God, and it was one of the most important days of my life. On April 11, 2008, our daughter Zhená Zamira Ayubi was born.

You see, I never thought this would happen. I'd been alone for a long time and I didn't think that I would be with someone ever again because I had been in two relationships and I had two children because on August 17, 2004, my second son, Zamir, was born in Holland – and the relationship with his mom didn't last very long. So," *he laughs*, "the one and only is 'mi Morenita.' She's the cutest! Together we have three children, first Zhená, then Zhane Zamir Zhenó, our boy, who was



Zamir who sat during the entire interview with baby Zhea Zamira in the hollow of his arm.

"Before I met Zamir," *Athena says*, "I had a son, Darvick, who is 10 and who lives with us, but during the weekends he's with his dad. And I wanted a little girl and now I have three children with Zamir! But no more kids for me! This is it! Zamir is very good; he does laundry, cleans the house and cooks. I'm a stay at home mom, but I do help Zamir with his radio work and sometimes I do commercials."

"We eat very healthy," *Zamir says*. "Arabic salad, soup, very little sugar, hardly any salt or oil, and lots of fruit and vegetables. We drink a lot of water and we don't 'do' sodas. We eat as a family at the table and we say our prayers and we are responsible parents. Every Sunday we go to church and we raise them very strictly, but we also go for drives and we go swimming, or to the library, or to Washington Park or biking. We want them to know all about their history and culture and we read to them. We do a lot of fun things together. We want to be good role models for our children and I respect all people: straight, homosexual or lesbian. Everybody has the right to decide what to do with his or her life.

It's great to have so many children, but there's one thing I would like to say: When parents are no longer together,

life!

In 2011 my father passed away. It was the worst – the worst. Thanks to God and the support of the family I survived. Seven months earlier, in August 2010, my mom suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage in Aruba. She was taken to Colombia and operated on by doctor Penagos and his team. She made it and we're grateful she's still with us, but my mother will never be the person she was before it happened." *He hugs his little baby daughter who's been totally happy in her father's arms for one and a half hours and he smiles at Athena.*

"Nowadays I'm busy with Rumba 107.7 FM with Gregorio. Aimer is the manager of Radio Digital. Ricardo Sarmiento is doing operations and news. Breaking news is done by Aimer. Digital is the Number 1 station of Bonaire. People can call us for breaking news or anything they want on the radio on 520-9999 or 717-9911 or mail aimedayubi@gmail.com and for Rumba zamirfuedayubi@gmail.com."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



THE SPOTLIGHT

IS ON

DIVI DIVI AIR

In contrast to the other 'bigger' sized airlines and their dreadful current issues of numerous delays and cancellations, the small sized Divi Divi Air still manages to fly on time most of the time if not always.

I was privileged to have Germaine Richie's enthusiastic collaboration while looking into the background, discussing the current situation and talking about some future plans of Divi Divi.

Germaine started off with a little bit of history. "Divi Divi Air was founded in 2000/2001 by a German couple, Hans Peter Bart and Karla Siercke. Being a pilot at that time for ALM, Bart detected a need for a more stable and frequent connection between Curaçao and Bonaire. My husband Reginald and I took over the ownership in 2004. My sister Danielle is also part of the

management team. At the moment we can count on the excellent collaboration of our employees on Curaçao and Bonaire. Our goal is to offer high quality service at a reasonable price. We ARE willing to go that extra mile for our clients."

The current outrageous flying situation is getting on all the affected passengers' nerves - delays and cancellations with the uncertainty of how and when they will get home.

Nevertheless, Divi Divi does not seem to be affected. Germaine explains why. "We have a back-up principle regarding our flights which ensures our punctuality and usually rules out cancellations. The secret is to have two aircraft ready for dispatch so that when one is down, the spare one is ready to take over within a reasonably short time." Should the second substitute aircraft not be available to take off right away, the staff of Divi Divi Air will notify the passengers ahead of time and offer them some alternatives. Germaine explained, "We try our utmost to foresee delays and/or cancellations and act rapidly before they become

realities in order to keep the passengers up to date and minimize possible inconveniences to their schedules. We firmly believe that if the passenger knows ahead of time that his or her schedule has changed, he or she might still have control over it. If we do not notify them, and let them sit and wait at the airport it will be beyond their control and that leads to uncontrollable frustrations. Therefore, we always try to find alternative flights with our neighboring airlines or accommodate our passengers on other available flights."

A message for those affected passengers travelling to Aruba and/or Curaçao and back to Bonaire or vice versa with any other airlines besides Divi Divi Air who have been stranded once or multiple times: The fact is that those airlines are offering way too many flights per day than they can handle due to nearly empty flights as a result of insufficient seats sold on the planes. So what these airlines do is cancel flights in order to save money (poorly occupied planes equals major loss and costs) and put in a few



Germaine and Reginald earlier in their career

bigger planes to fly out all the stranded passengers. (Continued on page 13)

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Smoked Kip Tukkie from Fred's Land-Rover

Kralendijk/
Bonaire –

It is Saturday morning, October the 20th. Fred Ros is busy and very active as always. The artistic cook is excited because he has all official papers and documents. Now he is a real smoked chicken seller, and a friendly looking blond Barry Two is his assistant. Location is the parking lot in front of Warehouse Supermarket along the Kaya Industria. The tropical trade wind transports the smell and flavor of oak smoked brined chicken. It is around noon and people are getting a bit hungry. Fred is busy smoking loads of brined chicken and Barry Two sells them to the public. The hot chicks smell delicious and the velvet taste is even better. Signs and posters inform you about "Kip Tukkie, Caribbean's best oak smoked chicken"



Fred Ros and his assistant, Barry, prepare and sell their brined and smoked velvet tasting chickens, right from the wood chip oven.

Photograph: J@n Brouwer

Fred: "This is the old Land-Rover 109 diesel four cylinder. In fact Barry Ferrara is the owner. My car is parked on the opposite side of the Kaya Industria. It is the light green colored Ford F150, made in 1967, the one with the immense billboard in the bed. Apart from the smoky smell the huge billboard informs the islanders we are here with our delicious brined and smoked super juicy chickens! It takes us two days to brine the chickens. When they are brined I put them in my custom built stainless steel oven in the back of the Land-Rover. There they are smoked during some three hours. Temperature is about 80 degrees Celsius. Smoking at this temperature keeps my chicks that juicy. I use oak wood shavings and chips from Scheepswerf (shipyard/jb) Nieuwboer, Spakenburg, The Netherlands. This is where they restored my Volendammer Kwak, the VD17, a flat bottom sailing ship made of oak wood. Brining and smoking meat and fish is

a very old and reliable way of conservation. I really need oak chips to create the special smell and flavor. You can consume my smoky chicks direct from the oven or you can take them home in one of my special bags. You can reheat them in the bag in your microwave but cold from the fridge they are delicious too!"

Then Fred grabs his ultra-sharp kitchen cleaver and cuts a chicken in two pieces. He offers me a juicy leg and asks me to taste it. The leg is quite hot and the smell of it raises my appetite. Then I taste it. The smell, the taste, the juiciness... It slightly reminds me of fresh smoked Dutch eel, then it tastes even better. Delicious! More and more people are attracted by the smoke and by the sound of the air horn Fred has installed on the hood of his classic Land-Rover. (The power to the horn is supplied by the air from a dive tank. Simple and reliable! /jb)

Fred: "Every Friday there is fresh smoked chicken for sale at my home. For more information you can always call me. When I am not too busy with my chickens I can answer the phone: 786-3373. On Saturday chickens are for sale at the parking lot at Warehouse. You can find us near Havana's too. Just look for smoke and follow your nose!" ■ Jan Brouwer

Also see advertisement on page 14

Bonaire Coral Puzzle 5: Water Motion?



Corals grow in a surprising pattern on the boat mooring blocks in Kralendijk. Their coverage on vertical faces of the inshore blocks decreases between Karel's Bar and Kas di Regatta, but it increases on the faces of the offshore blocks between Karel's Bar, Kas di Regatta and Harbour Village Marina. What causes such a strange arrangement? Many factors were suggested and eliminated (see Bonaire Coral Puzzle articles in the previous four issues of *The Bonaire Reporter*) while the pattern is getting only more mysterious. As a reader stated, "It is beginning to seem like solving the puzzle is 'Mission Impossible.'" Nevertheless, several readers suggested hydrodynamic effects which might explain this coral phenomenon.

The latter suggestions refer to water motion caused by waves, tides, and winds. These disturbances produce horizontal back-and-forth and vertical circular motion in the water between the surface and the bottom. This water motion – similarly to sea currents – might positively affect corals by helping them to clean off sediments and toxins and by enhancing their gas and nutrient exchange with their environment. These effects are perhaps stronger on the inshore blocks because these blocks are shallower. It is logically possible that shore and bottom topography in Kralendijk area weakens the water motion along the sand-flat from Karel's Bar to Kas di Regatta and strengthens it along the reef-edge from Karel's Bar to Kas di

Regatta to Harbour Village Marina. If so, it would explain the observed pattern of coral coverage on the mooring blocks.

Does water motion near the blocks change in a pattern corresponding to the pattern of coral growth on the blocks? To answer this question, I decided to compare water motion between the five "end-points" of the mooring block lines: inshore and offshore near Karel's Bar, inshore and offshore near Kas di Regatta, and offshore near Harbour Village Marina. How will I compare water motion over time between different locations? The method is based on what most boaters know: a piece of zinc placed in salt-water into contact with other metal, slowly dissolves. The rate of weight loss by the zinc piece increases as the water motion around the metal increases. I have installed five "water motion sensors" made of cooper and zinc (see the photo) in the five mooring block locations. The zinc pieces' weight loss over time will reflect the differences in water motion between the locations.

Do the zinc pieces lose weight in a pattern corresponding to the pattern of coral growth on the blocks? It is not known yet. The data are being compiled as I write this. I expect to have enough data to answer this question by the next issue of your *Bonaire Reporter*. ■ Genady Filkovsky

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

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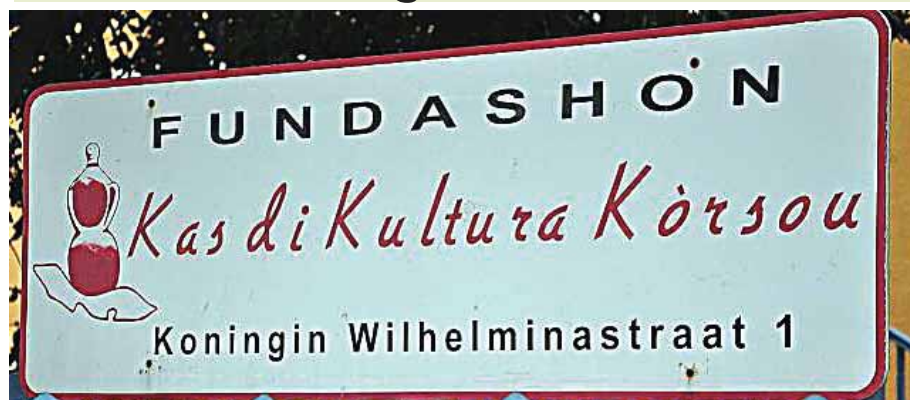
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Guest Editorial

Looking Out To Sea



Curaçao has a Cultural Center. Why not have one in Bonaire?

It is some 14 years ago that I arrived in Bonaire by boat. Upon arrival from the sea I looked at the sleepy island shores with some curiosity. In the years that have followed after settling down on the island I have done my best to inform myself. By participating in the local brass band, by producing stories for the book "Portraits of Bonaire" and by organizing and supporting various venues with the locals. I felt both a desire and a necessity to integrate as much as I could into this intriguing society. The process has rewarded me with great experiences and I may have learned a thing or two as well.

Presently I look out to sea. I turn away from the incessant racket of the digging machines which are working on the boulevard. Take a bath in the sea to rid myself of a layer of greasy dust.

I have also turned my back on the squabbling of politicians. Recent interference of the Dutch government with daily matters on Bonaire is not always to my liking. It hasn't improved relationships between the islanders of old and the islanders of recent times. Not something I relish to see or hear. Cocky smarty-pants public officials from The Netherlands operating blissfully ignorant of the expected due respect for values and sensibilities of the people of Bonaire. It rubs the locals completely the wrong way and can be eye-wateringly embarrassing for the beholder.

The grouching that I find myself indulging in of late is starting to get on my nerves. Compared to some years ago there are, thankfully, also enough improvements to lift one's mood.

Healthcare has improved significantly. The infrastructure is being dealt with. Security has become a focal point for the authorities. Although, having said that, more patrolling policemen and a nice new penitentiary have not been able to put a stop to the recent rise in thefts and muggings. We also have green power to run our fridges and air conditioning on and we find ourselves liberated from the entity that has raided our tax revenues for so long. If you ask me, one of the main reasons we find ourselves so far behind in so many respects are the long fingers of Curaçao.

Is there anything left to repine? There is a group of people who feel they have a legitimate complaint and I count myself amongst them.

It is the musicians, actors, singers, dancers and other practitioners of performing arts. And of course those people who enjoy being spectators of the aforementioned group. People who believe that culture and the arts are an enrichment of daily life and an opportunity for doing things together across ethnic and cultural boundaries. Thus

aiding the process of integration. All these people have been moping for a long time about the absence of accommodations. They resent the lack of support of our administrators.

"Culture" is a word lacking any priority on the to-do list of the policy-makers and quartermasters. And precious little have we heard about it. The arts and cultures are a residual item. This is extremely unfortunate because it could be one of the things bringing us together.

As important as physical health, the environment, security, provisions for retirement and keeping incomes at par.

Promotion of the arts on the island is presently mainly the fruit of private initiative: some bars, resorts, local bands and radio stations do their bit. The painters have the Kaminda di Arte. Doei Diaz promotes the celebration of Simadan and so forth. There are also the initiatives I have been involved with: the Classical Musical Board Bonaire and the Bonaire Jazz Foundation. All of this serves to stir things up. Unfortunately the limited facilities that can cater to these activities are all in the hands of the restaurant industry and are not affordable and available for all.

Is there a solution?

A **Kas di Kultura** where we can all meet, enjoy the fruits of the arts has been a long time coming. Where the audience can meet the artists. As, for example, a community center might be in a medium sized Dutch municipality. Where, as far as the undersigned would be concerned would also be room for a conference, library space, musical education, radio broadcast and a place for meeting and conversing with others under one roof.

"Meet you at the Kas di Kultura!" Wouldn't that sound great?

Is there any hope of this dream becoming reality? Dear Island Council, dear Delegates, dear Governor, dear Representative of the Kingdom, dear officials from The Hague. Here is an opportunity to enthrall us. What spectacle more delightful than a population submerging in its rich cultural life. So that we may get to know each other better by playing music, play-acting, painting and singing together.

I hope it doesn't take a referendum nor that we have to wait for policy papers to converge at this point of wisdom.

In the meantime I will be looking out to sea. Interesting things happening out there. ■ *Guus Geritsen*



BONAIREAN VOICES

BONAIREAN FEARS

We are living in a world of anxiety, never knowing what tomorrow has to offer. But one thing for sure is that people are concerned about their future. Some have shown their discontent by protesting on TV or radio programs, even by writing letters to certain institutions. Mr. James Finies (48) a sportsman and an entrepreneur at Bonaire Sunshine Homes, started questioning our constitutional system.

It all started back between 2000-2002, when our ex-governor of the Antilles, Mr. Alejandro Saleh, was invited by the Economic Platform to explain our identity of having a direct bond with Holland. It was a fundraising dinner at Plaza. Managers from different sectors were invited to contribute that night. James Finies explains that because his manager couldn't be at the meeting he was asked to attend. The theme was "Boneiru Nobo" (the new Bonaire). James and two others had their own opinions about the content of this lecture. According to James, "The new constitution wouldn't work properly for Bonaire because every nation seeks unity, so why must we dissolve everything between the Dutch Antilles Islands and give Bonaire and all the other islands in the Kingdom a new status? We just need to change the balance of power in the Dutch Antilles itself because unity makes you stronger and we can achieve more than being separate." Nobody else reacted about the presentation that night.

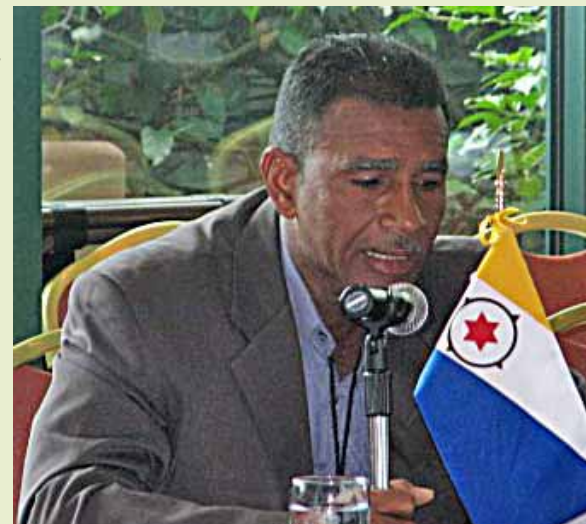
Well, after that James continued with his regular life as a sportsman and didn't mix politics with his career. Before the 2004 referendum there was another lecture in Rincon which was called "Bou di Ramada" (Under the Shelter). Everyone could give his or her opinion that day too. In the referendum of 1993, 90% voted to stay in the Antilles and to try again. We again faced another referendum where James went on the BonFM radio station to explain that:

- Bonaire is not ready, nor even free to give its own opinion
- If we can't do business or negotiate with our sister island in the Kingdom, how can we do business with a far away country like Holland?
- The questions made for the referendum were not completely clear. There was a big gap between being in the Kingdom and being independent.
- The referendum was most likely a political choice.

The referendum campaign had to be more informative concerning the following:

- All voters including our future voters (youngsters and students) need to be involved.
- The referendum committee had to be more truthful and clear about the content.
- Selecting people for voting must include more than just the residency status.

After all these debates the referendum questions were clearer and James stood at a distance watching the outcome. The referen-



James Finies

dum was done and the result was known. It was clear that everyone voted for direct bonds with Holland and the negotiations with Holland began. The aftermath was the 10-10-10 celebrations for a new political situation for the BES Islands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba). At that time Finies wrote a letter to the Island government, the Lt. Governor, the governor, Holland and the International Court of Justice that Holland is stepping on our rights. In December 2010 a referendum was held: YES or NO, for a status that was not chosen by the people. It was not a legalized status according to the constitution of the United Nations. It's the political parties that had negotiated for the people so we had to say if we agreed with what had been done.

In March 2011 James again wrote a letter to different parties in the Kingdom including the Queen. In March 2012 Finies decided to join with other groups and together they created the name, "Nos Ke Boneiru Bek" (We Want Bonaire Back). Letters were written again to radio and TV. To change the direction, Holland must help these countries to aspire to self-government, starting with:

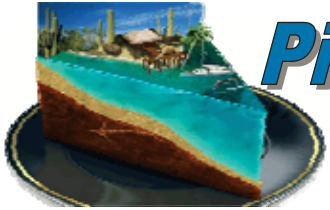
- A military base
- Letting us keep our nationality
- Helping our own people to rule their own country
- A nation building campaign

We do not have a minister in Holland who decides what is good for us, not just a public identity in the Dutch Kingdom where our commissioners don't have to much to say. We want our government back as being autonomous in the Kingdom, while Holland helps us, step by step, in the growing process. The solution is a referendum to clearly choose a self determination status before the evaluation time. We need leaders to lead this island.

James Finies and some others stand for not being integrated into Holland as a municipality, being in the Kingdom as an autonomous country with no independence. In this way we recognize how anxious people are about their future. Are you having these same anxieties for yourself and your family? Think what you can do now to help your island.

Story & Photo by Siomara Albertus





Piece of Paradise

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

REAL ESTATE TAX NOTIFICATION UNDERWAY IN THE MAIL: NOW WHAT?



What does the tax man think it is worth?

What better subject could we choose this time for our real estate column in *The Bonaire Reporter* than the real estate tax value notifications that are currently underway in the mail. We understand that most owners on the island have already received the notifications and that owners who do not live on the island have received them as well.

Just in case you are confident that you should have received such a notification but you have not yet received one, you, or someone you have appointed as your representative in this matter, can ask for the information at the tax office. In this case it is better to be proactive than to be unpleasantly surprised once the tax invoices do reach you.

The value that is given to your property in the notification that you receive is the commercial value as per January 1, 2011, and this value will be reevaluated in five years' time. This value will be used for the calculation of the *vastgoedbelasting* (real estate tax) only.

If you do not agree with the value that is appointed to your property, you have two months to inform the tax office about this. Since the notifications are dated October 31, 2012, you will have until December 31, 2012, to do so. Depending on your arguments the tax office will either change their opinion or not. In the event you do not agree with their answer, you will be able to appeal their decision.

If you decide to object to the value in the notification and you are in need of an appraisal report, make sure that you are

working with an office that is willing and able to defend their decisions in their report with the appropriate training, background, expertise and experience. This will give you a better position in case you do have to appeal to the answer of your first objection.

Perhaps you may not care about the value appointed to your property because you believe you are not eligible for *vastgoedbelasting*. You might even be right in that assumption. However, even then it is important that you inform the tax office of the fact that you are not eligible, and also to make sure they do not file the value of your property as it was sent to you now. Even though you may have no plans right now, if you sell your home before the end of this first five-year appraisal period, and the new owner is eligible for *vastgoedbelasting*, this will be the value that he or she will have to deal with. Therefore, in order to manage the market value of your property, it is important that you make sure this is all well documented at the tax office.

This whole project is a huge undertaking for the tax office as well as for all of us property owners on Bonaire, and together we have to make sure that the starting point of the execution of this new tax is going to be correct. This will benefit all of us in the long run in managing the investment climate on our island. ■

Corine van der Hout © Sunbelt Realty



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Take The Bus!

Scheduled public bus transport for Bonaire started as a trial run on September 23rd this year, and is set to end three months later on December 23rd, 2012. It's a pilot project initiated by the Bonaire Island Government, funded by Dutch funds.

An initial study by SEI (Social and Economic Initiative) indicated a need for public transport, especially for those within the community who need to get to work and have no means to do so, students going to school and for those without a car, or workers with a low salary from the scattered neighborhoods.

The bus offers frequent connections from one place to the next, especially to and from Rincon, thus helping those to get around for a reasonable fee (\$1.50). The route starts at Kaya Emerenciana, in front of Nadia snack, and travels through Playa up Kaya Korona, to Rincon, Kaya Commerce, around to the Stadium, and back to the bus stop at the entrance of Rincon

There is one air conditioned bus leased from Akkermans Auto Supply. It seats 12 people comfortably. There are two drivers who rotate throughout the week. The round trip is \$3.

Whether you get on at the beginning and get off half way or in Rincon, the fare stays the same. For example, if you want to get off before or after an official stop this is possible as long as you stay on the official route.

During weekdays the bus makes six



round trips a day. On Saturday the bus runs four times and on Sunday it runs three times. Published schedules are available.

It travels on schedule, unless for one reason or another it gets caught up in traffic. The chauffeur is an experienced bus driver, and maintains a low cruising speed.

We took the bus on Sunday at 12:15pm. It was exactly on schedule, and we arrived in Rincon at 12:40. Being a Sunday there was just one other passenger on the way to Rincon whom we picked up at Mentor, and at the end of the route at the entrance of Rincon a hotel employee got on who had to be at work in Playa.

There are no seat belts in the back of the bus. Only the passengers up front have access to them. The bus is very clean.

Maybe in the future children under a certain age, accompanied by an adult of course, and 60-plusers can get a discount, should they decide to up the ante to ride the bus. ■

Story & photo by Christie Dovale



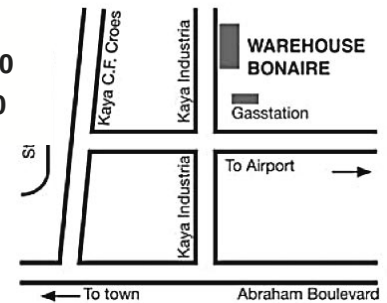
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Budget Marine Ship to Shore Boat Party

Budget Marine would like to thank all of you who came out to the Ship to Shore boat party at the end of the Regatta. There was a great turnout and it seems fun was had by all. There were nearly 40 boats from 10 to 60 feet long and over 600 people enjoyed the event from both boats and from the shore. Special thanks to the Marine Park for placing additional moorings and Papy Cicilia and John Cicilia for their assistance in organizing and placing the lines for the boats and delivering T-shirts to the participants.



The new location by the Kas di Regatta turned out perfectly as there is more space and shade at that location. The infrastructure is there and the ambiance is much better. The in-water infrastructure also added to the success as there were many blocks below the surface to secure the lines. There was no need for the lines to connect to shore which of course kids like to play on but which have caused the boats to jerk about in the past. Security did a great job regulating the activities.

With the late announcement of the SGB Self-built Boat Races there was not time for many to build their boats, and even for those who did, some did not make it to the races. We hope that you are all busy designing fun and creative boats in your mind so that the next competition sees more participants!

Blue Lightning built by Robert Craane and his team won both 1st place in the race and the "Most Professional" prizes. The Gray boat built by Wiebe Kalkman and his team won the "Most Creative" with PVC pipes for added buoyancy and streamlined look took second. They each received some of the hot new fishing gear from Budget Marine so that they can make good use of their new boats.

Sport Bonaire set up Beach Tennis as the first official use of the sand patch where Dr. Welvaart's office used to be. The courts worked out perfectly so look out for a repeat of this event in the near future! The winners from this event were Chris and Emma van Wijngaarden and Yannick Finies. They each went with a cap and a fully rigged hand line for fishing from Budget Marine.

Zeeko arrived with the Giant bouncer but

found the proposed location to be muddy from the rains the previous night, so with some quick work they switched bouncers and came with the large versus the giant one which fit on the waterfront for a better view and less mud! Thanks for the quick work and flexibility of the crew to make this work out.

If you were too hot, the Movie Bus provided a fully air conditioned movie theater with a view of the festivities and the sea. It showed the new release of "Lion King" in 3D with full surround sound and of course free popcorn to enjoy with your movie.

The tunes were non-stop with great music from a wide variety of bands, DJs and dancers to entertain the crowds. Food and drink were certainly plentiful. There were people sitting on shore, swimming and playing on boats and rafts all along the waterfront. We would like to thank the Regatta committee for setting this up and Kanti Awa Snack and all of the other food and drink stands for sticking with us for one more day of activities.

SELIBON did a great job cleaning up the shoreline to make our presence only a memory. After all of this activity we are very happy to announce that our in-water cleanup the following day totaled 4 Polar bottles, 1 Smirnoff bottle, 4 pop cans, 2 popito bottles, one diaper and one entire Kliko garbage can (still containing a stash of bottles).

We thank you all for having a great time and not leaving a mess behind! This cooperation encourages us to plan future events to be even bigger and better!

We look forward to seeing you at the next Ship to Shore party following the Bonaire International Fishing Tournament January 20th. ■ Story & photo by Pam Werdath

Jake Richter Memorial

Bonaire, October 16, 2012



Suzy Swygert photo

Linda Richter scatters Jake's ashes

We arrived at Ol' Blue around 5:30pm. Although sunset would be at 6:14pm, it was already darkening as the cloud cover was pretty thick except for this amazing break in the clouds which let the sun stream through. We hugged and talked with everyone while we waited for the sun to set. Many people asked me why the choice of Ol' Blue. As locals many of us only visit this spot when taking the new visitor on an island tour. For us Ol' Blue has been a favorite spot for beach BBQs with dear friends while watching the sun set and making S'mores. Ol' Blue is also far enough out to be a special trip.

We helped each other down to the sea as the coral stone beach slid under foot. Krystyana and Martin joined me for putting the ashes into the sea. Angela had brought some white roses which she gave to each of us to float them out to sea. Pink bougainvillea joined the roses as we all said our good-byes to Jake. Thank you to everyone who came out to be with us as well as those that could not attend but did so in their hearts. ■

Linda, Krystyana, and Bas Richter

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Trio Takes on Classics

The Classical Music Board Bonaire hosted its first performance of the season at Plaza.

Hans Faassen, piano, Elger Verschuur, acoustic guitar and violin and Benji Schaub, guitar, played a variety of well selected excel-



Hans, Elger and Benji performing

lent pieces from Mozart and Bach through to Scherzberger as well as Palm's variations on the Bonairean National Anthem. The choice of music matched the instruments well and Hans Faassen treated the audience to one of his own compositions written in honor of Queen Beatrix's visit to Bonaire in October 2011.

The size of the room and the audience number gave a feeling of what it might have been like to have been privileged enough to hear live music in eras gone by.

Beautiful paintings by Margreet Faassen were displayed behind the stage, setting a beautiful scene to combine performing and visual art.

The highlight of the evening was a complete rendition of Mozart's "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." The work was written for an ensemble of two violins, viola, cello and optional double bass but is often performed by a string orchestra. All three musicians played excellently to give an outstanding performance of this well known piece.

The next concert will be on November 24 (see below). It will feature Nicaulis Alliey and Armand Simon who appeared in concert on Bonaire before and gave a most impressive performance of Astor Piazzolla's Trio Sonata. More details in the next Reporter. ■ Carla Hay



November 3 - 09.30 till 16.00

You could feel the vibration in the air at the Bon Bida Spa and Gym open day last Saturday. Dozens of people took part in demonstrations or sampled the fitness offerings during the day. Bonaire is fortunate to have such a state-of-the-art facility for its residents, and many new members signed up. There's a new schedule of Les Mills and other classes starting now. For more information call 717-7224, drop in or go to www.bonbida.com. See advertisement on page 6. ■G.D.



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Bonairean Humor

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

A young boy wakes up very early
and says to his father: "Dad,
today I woke up with this great desire
to work." Dad: "And what are you
going to do about that?"
Boy: "Go back to sleep and see if it
goes away."

"Mama, do sharks eat sardines?" "Yes,
honey." "So how do they open the
can?"

Two friends run into each other. One
had a shovel in his hand and looked
really tired. "Buchi, what's going on
with you?" "I am really tired, son, I
just buried my mother in law." "But
how can you be so tired, you're a guy
with a lot of strength?"
"I know, but she didn't want me to
bury her."

There's a guy so drunk that he crawls
out of the bar where he was drinking.
He crawls the entire way home, he
crawls up the steps, opens the door of
his house and continues to crawl all the
way up to get into bed. The next morn-
ing his wife asks him: You drank your-
self really drunk last night, no? The
man answers: NO!! The wife says:
"Then why did the bar call to tell me
that you left your wheelchair there last
night?" ■

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
NOV. Fri 09		02:35 -0.01 ft	08:56 0.80 ft	16:03 0.27 ft	20:04 0.49 ft	6:31	18:07
Sat 10		02:57 0.01 ft	09:32 0.92 ft	17:20 0.19 ft	21:06 0.37 ft	6:31	18:07
Sun 11		03:23 0.03 ft	10:13 1.04 ft	18:36 0.09 ft	22:22 0.27 ft	6:31	18:07
Mon 12		03:54 0.05 ft	11:00 1.13 ft	19:46 -0.02 ft	23:54 0.20 ft	6:32	18:07
Tue 13		04:30 0.08 ft	11:51 1.20 ft	20:48 -0.12 ft	New Moon	6:32	18:07
Wed 14	01:35 0.18 ft	05:17 0.13 ft	12:45 1.24 ft	21:43 -0.20 ft		6:33	18:07
Thu 15	03:06 0.22 ft	06:20 0.18 ft	13:41 1.25 ft	22:33 -0.26 ft		6:33	18:07
Fri 16	04:15 0.29 ft	07:42 0.24 ft	14:37 1.23 ft	23:19 -0.30 ft		6:33	18:07
Sat 17	05:09 0.38 ft	09:11 0.28 ft	15:33 1.17 ft			6:34	18:07
Sun 18		00:03 -0.30 ft	05:57 0.48 ft	10:37 0.31 ft	16:29 1.08 ft	6:34	18:07
Mon 19		00:44 -0.29 ft	06:41 0.59 ft	12:00 0.31 ft	17:24 0.96 ft	6:35	18:07
Tue 20	First Quarter	01:22 -0.24 ft	07:25 0.70 ft	13:20 0.29 ft	18:18 0.82 ft	6:35	18:07
Wed 21		01:57 -0.18 ft	08:06 0.80 ft	14:38 0.26 ft	19:13 0.67 ft	6:36	18:07
Thu 22		02:30 -0.11 ft	08:47 0.88 ft	15:56 0.21 ft	20:10 0.51 ft	6:36	18:07
Fri 23		02:59 -0.03 ft	09:27 0.94 ft	17:14 0.15 ft	21:13 0.38 ft	6:37	18:07

Divi Divi Air (Continued from page 6)
sengers at once.

Ms. Richie cannot account for the behavior
of fellow airline companies, but she com-
mented: "Being an outsider in this situation
it's difficult to make a fair judgment and
every company has its own policy. Besides,
people complain about prices increasing gen-
erally and they take fewer leisure trips be-
tween the ABC Islands. Research has shown
that the travelling public between Curaçao
and Bonaire has diminished by 6% in com-
parison to last year."

Divi Divi Air still shines despite some un-
fortunate incidents in the past. Germaine
gives us a peek into their future plans.
"Currently, the open market between the is-
lands has led to an increase in competition
which has made the market smaller. In the
near future we will just have to sit tight, wait
and see how it all plays out. In the long run,
we would like to diversify and explore mar-
kets that have not yet been offered."

As competition is tight in the airline busi-
ness, Richie states what makes Divi Divi Air
stand out. "Our passengers can expect a good,
reliable, safe and on-time performance. If you
have a special need, we will do our utmost to
assist you in every way." She also empha-
sizes the advantages of being a small scale
company. "The employees have close ties to
the passengers; we even call each other by
first names. The passengers feel comfortable
and at ease with our staff. Moreover, flying in
a small aircraft is like experiencing a helicop-
ter trip over the islands looking over the
coasts and feeling as if you were only a short
distance above the ground. The view is
breathtaking!"

After Divi Divi's having served for over a
decade and still thriving as an airline service
provider, Germaine has a few words to the
public: "First of all, we would like to thank
all our passengers who relied on our service
for all these years and have made our decade
existence a fact. We are blessed to have them
standing by us through thick and thin. And
with their demand, we will continue to do our

utmost best to sat-
isfy any special
travelling needs
they might have.
They can rest as-
sured because Divi
Divi Air will always
be only a phone call
or email away and
we are ready to serve another decade if not
more!"



After having experienced first-hand the
unpleasant delay-cancellation situation while
traveling to Aruba with a minor some time
ago, I cannot believe that those companies
still provide poor customer service when
dealing with cancellations. Moreover, I was
surprised they didn't react when given the
opportunity to tell the public their side of the
story so that the passengers could be more
understanding. You cannot imagine how up-
set one gets, arriving at the airport ready to
depart and getting the unpleasant notice that
your flight has been cancelled with no further
information regarding a new departure time.
There were babies, kids, adults, elderly pas-
sengers and some with special traveling
needs, all there, stranded without knowing
what was going to happen. If you were lucky
enough to get a consumption voucher, you
might not want to jump happily yet since the
only things you could get were chips and
sodas.

However, in the meantime, thanks to Divi
Divi Air we will be able to take a land view-
ing trip with a clear view of the departure and
arrival island from the comfort of our seat
inside the airplane. Thank you for serving the
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from their website
<http://flydivi.com/> ■

Rose Feng



BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 120th 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!

A Big Boy on a Small Motorcycle

Tera Kora/Bonaire –

His name is Sandro Joosten, his age is 16, he is an SGB student, he lives in the neighborhood of Nikiboko, he is smart and he is the proud owner of a Honda Dax. A Honda what? A Honda Dax! If you have never heard of a Honda Dax, just jump on the internet and find out there are loads and loads of Dax aficionados roaring around over the surface of this planet on their little mice. The Honda Dax is a living legend and this Japanese invention is widely copied in countries like China and on the Latin American continent.

On the island of Bonaire it is presumed there are two Daxes. Both are red and black. At least one is in running condition, and that's Sandro's Dax. The Japanese Honda factories started with the well-known and reliable 49cc single-cylinder four-stroke overhead valve engine. They added three gears and they produced millions of those engines in motorcycles and mopeds. Then they started creating a very small motorcycle chassis around the engine.

They mounted 8.50x8 rims and tires and they constructed a very small front fork and a reclining and foldable steer and/or handlebars. In fact of most Daxes the buddy seat is the biggest part. Sandro's bike is very complete. Head and rear lamp, indicators, three speeds, a kick starter, a battery, a horn. Everything you need on a street-legal motorcycle. And street legal the 1498-MF is for sure!

When Sandro starts his roaring mouse, the engine produces a firm and healthy four-stroke sound by the upswept exhaust system. It really sounds like a mouse which is trying to be a lion. A 49cc with the allure of at least a 250cc.

Sandro really likes his 2004 model Dax. The engine is sound, cornering and braking are ok, gasoline consumption is slightly more than that of a cigarette lighter. No spares needed as the thing refuses to break down.

Apart from being the proud owner of a Honda Dax Sandro Joosten is a smart guy. He is smart as he wears a brand new helmet. Sandro: "I ordered a helmet from a catalogue from Macho's in Playa. This



Sandro Joosten aboard his Dax

Jan Brouwer photo

French-made Shir helmet has a cool look and is very comfortable to wear. It has 12 ventilation holes and it is not too warm in our tropical climate, as long as I keep on rolling at least. But since we do not have traffic lights on Bonaire that's not the problem. Queues and traffic jams do not exist

for a small and handy motorcycle as this. It's cheap and reliable and it makes me independent!"
 ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



Helmet Law On the Way

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

Bonaire/ Kralendijk –

Recent research and investigation discovered that helmet and safety laws are under development for Bonaire. A police officer of the main police department in Kralendijk declared that persons wearing a helmet and/or safety belts (sic/jb) are way ahead of their time on Bonaire.

Of course we do not need more rules and laws to regulate everything on a small and cute little tropical island like our own Bonaire and one of the best kept secrets is that there is a lack of rules which, apart from the sunny climate, makes the island that attractive for over-ruled and restricted American and European civilians. However, in a certain way a lack of rules may mean a lot of extra responsibility. As long as there are no rules you can play the game of life the way you wish. Feel free to wear a cap and glasses as protection against the sun. Feel comfortable and free, not using your safety belt. Then do not start complaining about injuries caused by a fall or by an accident. And do not accuse the government. Just be happy to create and obey your own rules!

This edition's picture is of a 24-year-young girl, born on the island of Curaçao. A youngster with some 75 more years to go; vivid, well educated, kicking alive, no suspensions needed yet, no glasses, healthy mind and skin. Just a pure human being the way our creator meant us to be. A human being too worthy to spoil, to jam against the tarmac or against another user of the road. Please realize what investment is made in you and wear a helmet or a safety belt and enjoy life as it is meant to be! ■ J@n Brouwer



J@n Brouwer photo

Amber, a 24-years-young Antillean girl, sitting on a semi-professional mountain bike, enjoying life and nature, protected by sunglasses and a Bell helmet.

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Green Fingers



Kriabon

Kriabon is Bonaire's non-profit farmers' co-op set up by a few farmers in 1981. It was officially chartered in 1987. Currently there are 330 members working closely with each other with the goal of becoming self sufficient by using their numbers to buy supplies in large amounts to save on costs.

Members breed and raise the usual assortment of livestock as well as laying hens for eggs and meat. The kunukus (farms in Papiamentu) are also home to approximately 40 horses which are kept as pets. Kriabon is a supplier of feed for goats, sheep, horses, rabbits, birds and more.

The tradition of raising small scale crops of various fruits and vegetables is being revived on island as evidenced at the monthly Farmers' Markets. While more emphasis is being put on raising animals rather than plants, perhaps a more effi-

cient way of reclaiming and purifying ground water may change to make irrigating plants more economical.

Many problems face the farmers including insects and of course lizards and iguanas. In addition livestock is often attacked by roaming dogs and the occasional "rustler." For lizards and iguanas a dog or cat seems to serve as a deterrent. (Of course the dog must be trained to leave the farm animals alone!) Sheet metal or shade cloth placed around the plants also seems to be a remedy. Some farmers grow plants that the iguanas like better than the crop being grown close by so that they will hopefully go and eat that and leave the crop alone. Live and let live seems to be the motto. On the other hand, it may just attract larger numbers. Keep in mind however, iguanas are also enjoyed in soups, curries or stews by locals!

Co-op members receive a 10% discount off the purchase price of goods at Kriabon as well as being entitled to purchase goods on credit. All members must purchase at least one share in Kriabon for \$27.97 and make a one-time payment of \$13.97.

Kriabon is run by a board of five directors and they in turn are governed by a supervising team of three. Membership has to be approved by the board. All board and supervising team members are volunteers.

Agnes Joosten is the manager of Kriabon. When asked what problems Kriabon faces she replied, "Containers arriving much later than scheduled are of great concern. I have to balance the quantities of feed stuff ordered with the demand and the timing of the arrival of the containers. Feed can spoil quickly and a horse will only eat certain food whereas goats, cows, pigs, etc. can eat other feed if their own specialized type isn't available. The build up of heat in unopened containers can also cause the feed to go bad very quickly and become bug infested. At present two 40-foot containers arrive each month from The Netherlands and a further one every three months from Santa Domingo.

Not so long ago a large quantity of goat fence wire was stolen which hasn't been found yet and this has caused a large financial loss."

"What are Kriabon's plans for the future?" we asked.

"A few members are currently working on a small scale maize project. If it proves

to be successful larger crops will be planted in fields that have been prepared at a further distance from Kriabon." She went on further to say, "I would like to see in a few years the government subsidizing animal feed and grants for people so they can become self sufficient. The government has said that Bonaire should be able to grow 5 - 10% of its food needs but it hasn't actually allocated any money for that to happen. An investment might make it possible if managed correctly to grow on a larger scale thus benefiting the island as a whole."

She added, "An air conditioned retail space where members can sell eggs, fish, fruit, vegetables and meat and seeds. I would also like to be able to use solar power and have water wells dug on the kunukus."

Agnes would also like to see the government scrap the 6% ABB she has to pay on goods sold to non-members. At present 30% of all sales are to non-members.

I asked Agnes what significant change she had noticed since 10 10 10 for Kriabon members. She said that "due to the large price increase in the shops, members have actually grown more food for themselves. However, price increases for seeds and soil etc. and the constant struggles to keep crops alive have made it cheaper to buy produce from Venezuela although the quality is lower. Of all produce consumed



Kriabon promotes agriculture on Bonaire



The monthly Kriabon Farmers' Market

on Bonaire 99% is either from North America, Europe or South America. A lot will have to happen if the government is to have its way in increasing productivity from 1% to even 5%, never mind 10%."

On a very positive note: Not everything is more expensive on Bonaire than on Curaçao as there are some items for sale at Kriabon that are cheaper than in the shops on Curaçao.

Kriabon is open to the public Monday to Friday, 2 to 6pm and Saturdays 8am to noon. Every first Saturday of the month there is a Farmers Market where members and others offer their produce for sale. ■

Carla Hay - Reviewed by Agnes Joosten.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS



Saturday, November 17 - Opening of the Kaminda di Art-Art Tour at Royal Palm Gardens, 3-5 pm with live music from "Back on Track"

Sunday, November 18 —First Kaminda di Arte for 2012-2013 season. 13 Bonaire artists open their homes and studios every third Sunday of the month from now until March 2013. Open hours are from 11 am until 4 pm.

-Dia Di Grasia(Bonaire Thanksgiving Day). More on page 2

-Thursday, November 22— American Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 21- Tree Festival. Contact STINAPA at 717 -8444.



Saturday, November 24th - Classical Music Concert featuring flautist Nicaulis Alliey and pianist Armand Simon at Plaza Resort Cacique Hall. Starting 8 pm. See page 11 for details.

REGULAR EVENTS

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

• **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open hrs 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm entrance fee 1.00 per child & 1.50 per adult. Saturdays open for free. Closed on Sundays.

Saturdays

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

• Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm. **Second Saturday of the month** 8 am to 12 noon.

• **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

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

• **Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan**, historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

• **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.

• **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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Mar-

tinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

• **International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-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-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 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) 10:20am- 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 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

Send notice of your activity or event to *The Reporter*:
reporter@bonairenews.com
or call 786-6518

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter On Europe's Highest Mountain



Dennis Kellner, who lives on Bonaire, is aiming to climb to the top of the tallest mountain on every continent. On his 60th birthday last July he climbed Mt. Elbrus in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia, and everything along the way was outrageously wonderful! At 18,510 ft., Mt. Elbrus was not the tallest mountains on Den's Seven Summit quest, but he openly admits that it was the most difficult mountain he has ever attempted. Yes, even more difficult than Everest (see the July 28, 2006 *Bonaire Reporter*)!



Dennis and Tamara on the top of Mt. Brandaris

Elbrus was number five on Den's Seven Summit quest with Kilimanjaro in Africa and Kosciuszko in Australia being the remaining two, although, he and his wife Tamara, added a number eight to the list.....Mt. Brandaris! They added that to the list and reached its summit on the five-year anniversary of the Mt. Everest climb and, yes, the Bonaire flag was proudly flying! ■ Tamara Brown

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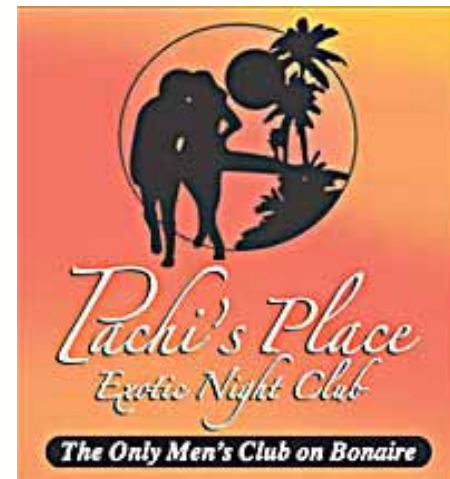
Colombians Exploited On Bonaire

On October 8th the Royal Marechaussee, police and the senior justice officer gave a press conference about their investigations into exploitation of staff by Paradise Inn better known as Pachi's Place.

It all started September 2011 when a Colombian, upon leaving Bonaire, complained to the Royal Marechaussee as to how the ladies were being treated. Conditions were alleged as follows: staff had to forfeit one month's pay in order to get a job there, they had to pay to have their air conditioning on, they weren't allowed to go out unless under escort, they were locked in at night and they had to pay for their own transport to and from Curaçao.

Between September 2011 and May 2012 about 140 women were interviewed and as a result Paradise Inn was closed down.

Three suspects have been arrested, house searches carried out and weapons, ammunition, computers, mobile phones



and \$66,000 seized.

The person in Colombia supplying the women is also suspect of human exploitation and is being investigated by the Colombian authorities.

Currently witnesses still have to be interviewed as well as seized items further investigated. ■ Carla Hay

"Air Bus" Bonaire – Colombia For MRI Scans

Fundashion Mariadal (San Francisco Hospital) and the Health Insurance Office (ZVK) will start an "air bus" service to Colombia for Bonairean patients who need an MRI scan. There is a waiting list because the MRI scanner on Curaçao has been defective for some time now. ZVK and Fundashion Mariadal are working closely together and will shortly organize flights from Bonaire to Bucaramanga (Colombia) to allow the MRIs to be made there. The organisation of this air transport, and in Bucaramanga from the airport to the hospital and the hotel, is in the hands of Coomeva, which deals with this professionally. They have also organized the examinations with the hospital to where the patients are brought, the Clinica Foscal. Two MRI machines are available there so that the time of waiting for the patients will be limited.



Clinica Foscal in Bucaramanga

The exact start date is not known but will begin within a very short time. Groups from Bonaire will fly aboard special chartered airplanes. There will be no need for stopovers.

Each patient who already has a referral will be approached personally by workers of the ZVK. The patient will then receive the exact travel date and time and additional appointments will be made concerning the details of the trip. Patients therefore are not required to come forward. It is necessary that they (and their companion if applicable) have a valid passport

Transport from the patient's home to the airport will also be arranged. Patients have a right to the normal daily living allowance. Normally patients entitled can have a person to accompany them. Because the return flight is not possible on the same day, an overnight in hotel will be arranged. This is also included in the allowance of the ZVK. ■

Press release

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Service Dog Artois Returns to Bonaire



Cindy and Artois at Houston airport- Note his Service Dog uniform.

Welcome back to Bonaire, "Artois," who accompanied his owners, Cindy and Larry Eskwith of Colorado. The threesome will be spending the winter here at their condo at Sand Dollar.

Artois, when he was just about three and a half months old, was found wandering around Sand Dollar. He was so skinny and pathetic that one of the staff brought him to the Shelter. But Cindy and Larry had seen him and totally fell in love with him, so much so that they arranged all the paperwork to bring him back to Colorado with them last May. When Artois left Bonaire he was only 39 pounds. On his return to Bonaire he's 56 pounds. Not only that but he has become a "Service Dog" and was therefore allowed to travel inside the cabin with his owners.

So why the name, Artois? It's because his very best friend, the Eskwith's daughter's dog, is named "Stella!" When they get together they look like twins: Stella Artois! "Artois lights up my life!" Cindy says. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Pet of the Week

It seems unbelievable but this beautiful dog, "Maya," was found abandoned in an empty house with some other dogs.



Maya

Maya at the time was only two months old and was terrified and didn't want to trust anyone. Can you really blame her after this horrible abandonment? But she was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter where she was given medical attention and loving care. Today, she's a totally different dog. She's playful, trusting and one of the "stars" of the Shelter. As one of the staff says, "Maya is just a great dog now."

There are only so many spots for dogs at the Shelter so those that are up for adoption are the cream of the crop. They're healthy, social and, in Maya's case, really good looking!

You may see Maya and the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 4 pm. Tel. 717-4989. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Animal Shelter Patron- Helma Schreuder - 20 years of Service



Jan Art photo

Helma Schreuder has been supporting The Bonaire Animal Shelter for over 20 years. Helma and her late husband Gert, started visiting Bonaire in 1984 for their holidays. In 1992 they moved to Bonaire to reside here. She has a great love for animals and wanted to help in some way. Her idea was to sell t-shirts and use the profit for the Animal Shelter expenses. She approached them with the idea of selling T-shirts but at that time the Shelter was unable to order T-shirts due to lack of funds. Helma took it upon herself to open a bank account, donated the money to buy the T-shirts and set up selling them at various places. In the beginning Divi Flamingo and Capt. Don's Habitat were happy to have her set up a table at their happy hours and sell them to their guests. You can now find them also at the cruise ship market tent at Wilhemina Park and always at Carib Inn.

Then she devised another plan for donations by distributing little plastic piggy banks that people could put their spare change into for donations at local stores and businesses. Later little wooden boxes were created by Barbara van Olphen, to replace the piggy banks. Helma took on the responsibility of making the rounds to collect the donations and became known as "The Animal Shelter Lady." This year Janice Huckaby of JanArt Gallery and her volunteer artists updated the little wooden boxes and repainted them with the new Animal Shelter logo.

Friday, October 26, in appreciation of Helma's 20 years of service, she was presented with 10 of the newly painted boxes and a T-shirt with the new box design that said "The Money Box Queen." Thank you, Helma, for 20 years of support! ■ *Janice Huckaby*



She has grey hair but she is definitely not a grey person. Helma Schreuder – on the island since 1991 – is connected to the Animal Shelter of Bonaire as a volunteer for a period of more than 20 years! Reason for the staff of the Shelter to organize a little informal party at Te Amo Beach, near the Flamingo International Airport. Weather and sunset were nice and some 25 volunteers joined the event. Helma enjoyed the reunion, sipping from her drink, enjoying her cigarette.

It was way back in the last century - 1984 - that Helma and her husband visited Bonaire for the first time. They immediately fell in love with the unspoiled island and they bought a little terrain to build their own house. In 1992 they started living on the island and soon Helma started as a volunteer, helping the Animal Shelter. She started with cleaning the terrain and the kennels and she tried to get rid of all the shit of the dogs. Then she also started selling Animal Shelter T-shirts to the tourists in the hotels. For some time she was a member of the board but she did not like the work that much and soon she was a "normal" volunteer again busy with the distribution and collection of plastic money pigs to organize funds for the always needy shelter. Those were the days. Long time ago. Then, together with Barbara van Olphen, she created the idea of the cute little Animal Shelter houses, painted in black and white and purple. You can still find those little homemade collection boxes all over the island in hotels, restaurants, shops and so on. Over all those years Helma must have collected a lot of money to help the Shelter. And she still does. Helma Schreuder: still going strong! ■ *Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer*

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THE LEONIDS AND MORE

Events During November

13th - **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE**, visible in Queensland, Australia and across the South Pacific

16th-18th - **LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER** peaks (duration 15th to 20th November)

27th - **VENUS & SATURN**, just a degree apart in the morning sky

28th - **PENUMBRAL LUNAR ECLIPSE**, not spectacular but visible from most of Earth's surface

MOON:

11th - close to Venus in the morning sky

13th - New

14th - Perigee at 357,360km

16th - the crescent Moon above Mars in the evening sky

28th - Full + Apogee at 406,365km + Penumbral Eclipse + close to Jupiter with Aldebaran below it

The young **crescent Moon** will set soon after sunset, leaving dark skies for this year's November 2012 **Leonid meteor shower**. Remember, this meteor shower is for night owls and early birds. As a rule of thumb, the Leonids intensify after midnight, and the greatest numbers fall just before dawn.

All this coming weekend should be good for watching this annual shower. **The best viewing window should be between midnight and dawn Saturday, November 17.** Even so, meteor showers are notorious for defying expectations, and any prediction should be regarded as a best guess – not an ironclad guarantee. If it's clear, you might see nearly as many meteors in the predawn darkness on Friday, November 16, or Sunday, November 17. Typically, you see 10 to 15 meteors per hour in the darkness before dawn.

The Moon won't be obstructing this year's Leonid display. In fact, it'll be quite a challenge, finding the young Moon with the planet **Mars** at nightfall these next few evenings. As seen from mid-northern latitudes, the thin waxing crescent Moon and the red planet Mars sit low in the southwest sky about an hour after sunset and follow the



Sun beneath the horizon shortly after dark.

It'll be much easier to see three other visible planets: **Jupiter, Saturn and Venus**. The blazing planet Jupiter rises in the east-northeast at early evening, and then stays out all night long. Saturn and Venus appear low in the southeast in the predawn darkness, when the Leonids typically produce the most meteors.

The Leonid meteor shower is named after the **constellation Leo the Lion**. If you trace the paths of the Leonid meteors backward, they all seem to radiate from this constellation – near the **star Algol**. But you don't have to identify the constellation Leo to watch the Leonids, for these meteors fly any which way through the nighttime sky. Generally, the higher that Leo climbs in the sky, the more Leonid meteors that you'll see. At this time of year, the Lion climbs highest in the sky just before dawn.

The Leonid shower has produced some of history's most impressive displays of meteors. The best displays in recent history took place in 1833, 1866 and 1966. Whenever our planet **Earth** plows through an unusually thick clump of debris in space – left behind by comets in orbit around the Sun – hundreds of thousands of meteors can streak across our nighttime sky. For instance, observers in the southwest US reported seeing 40 to 50 meteors per second (that's 2,400 to 3,000 meteors per minute!) during a span of 15 minutes on the morning of November 17, 1966.

Modest though this year's shower may be, expect to see a decent sprinkling of Leonids in the predawn. With no Moon to ruin the show, you could see as many as 10 to 15 meteors per hour! ■ *James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
November 2012

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will enjoy interaction with others this month. Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. Unstable relationships are likely. Take things slowly, especially for the sake of those you love. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Avoid lending or borrowing. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. You may want to take a serious look at your goals and objectives. Social activity should be on your agenda this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your accomplishments could exceed your expectations if you mix a little business with pleasure. You'll be dropping friends for no apparent reason. Don't promise to deliver the goods if you aren't positive that you can meet the deadline. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You should be getting into self-improvement projects. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Travel will promote romantic connections. Attempt to face key issues with lovers or problems could escalate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Find out all you can; secret enemies may lead you astray. Be very careful while in transit or while traveling in foreign countries. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. Generosity will put you in the poorhouse. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. You may experience financial loss if you don't use good judgment. Think about starting your own small business, Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can

make career changes that may put you in a much higher earning bracket. Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with peers. It won't take much to upset your lover. This may not be your day if you are overly melodramatic and unnerving everyone around you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) You may be thinking of starting your own business. Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Residential moves look hectic and sudden changes in your life are likely. You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Drastic changes regarding your personal attitude are evident. You may have difficulties with foreigners. Sudden changes could result in estrangements. Someone you live with may cause drastic alterations in your usual routine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Any attractions toward clients will be one sided and must be put right out of your head. Deception is evident around you. Don't overspend on entertainment, on children, or make poor investments. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) People you live with will not be terribly happy with you regardless of what you do this month. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. You can make rewarding connections through the organized groups you associate with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your temper could be short if someone criticizes your efforts. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Involvement in groups will be favorable. Business partnerships will prove lucrative. Take time to do some writing, ■

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Belnem, Kaya Gemini 12

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