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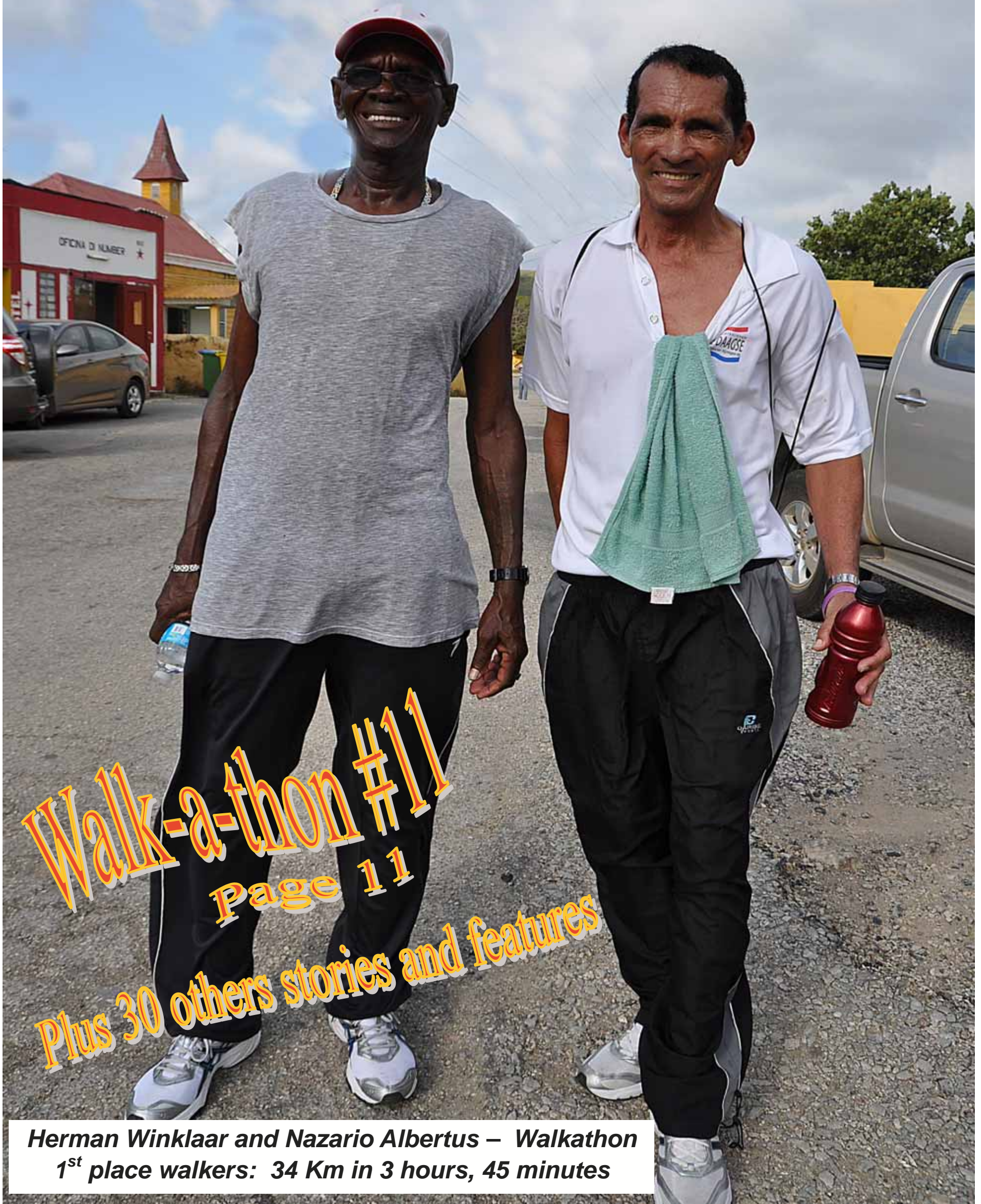
BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



Walk-a-thon #11
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Plus 30 others stories and features

**Herman Winklaar and Nazario Albertus – Walkathon
1st place walkers: 34 Km in 3 hours, 45 minutes**



The Netherlands' new King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima will visit the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom mid-November 2013, the Dutch Government Information Service RVD announced last week. No specific date was mentioned, but it is certain that the King and his wife will visit all six Dutch Caribbean islands. In November 2011 Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima joined Queen Beatrix on her last visit to the islands as Queen.

► **Pachi's Place**, the brothel officially known as the Hotel Paradise Inn, has been closed for six months and the Men's Heaven "replacement" had its permit denied. Based on open letters and discussions there is concern in the community that uncontrolled prostitution will grow and that young girls will become targets for men seeking sex for money. Meanwhile, The Amsterdam city council has decided to press ahead with increasing the minimum age for prostitution to 21 and will also introduce early morning closing hours for all brothels.

► **The "Liduinakoor" choir from The Hague will give several performances in Bonaire** between March 9 and 17. The choir will add luster to Catholic church services in Rincon and Kralendijk and also perform at the Mariadal hospital and at a benefit open-air concert in Rincon.

The mixed choir has existed for many years and has always been associated with the St. Liduina parish dating from 1915 in The Hague.

Their repertoire consists of church chamber music that spans a period from the Middle Ages to present-day liturgical music. At the invitation of Rinconero Eddy Anthony, the Liduina Choir is now making a special trip to Bonaire. Born and bred in Rincon, **Anthony is one of the tenors.**

► **The Classical Music Board Bonaire proudly presents Harold Martina in concert March 14th at 8pm at Plaza Resort**

Harold Martina is considered the top pianist from Antillean soil. He was the first student of the municipal conservatory of Vienna who graduated with the highest honor of Summa Cum Laude.

In 1975 he was given a Dutch knighthood for his musical excellence. Harold Martina has performed as soloist with various

symphony orchestras in the US, Europe and South America and has accompanied famous soloists.

Martina is an eminent veteran (born in 1934) who hasn't lost any of his virtuosity.

It is a great honor for Bonaire to receive this legendary pianist. **The main concert will be on Thursday March 14 at 8pm and he will give a concert on Friday March 15.** See poster on page 10 for more details.

► As license plate numbers near the 10,000 mark **chop shops seem to be flourishing on Bonaire.** One friend of ours who lives on a busy street has even given up owning cars because several of his were stolen and discovered stripped of parts before being found in the *mondi*. Now he just rents.

Car theft is a relatively new phenomenon for the island. It wasn't long ago that a missing car was just labeled "joy riding" and was found intact far from where it had been parked. Most of the cars get stripped of parts by the time what's left of them is found. Some believe these stolen parts are sent off island, but it's more likely they end up in junk yards where used vehicles and spare parts are bought and sold.

Police are aware that some people buying these parts are often unaware they have been stolen, but others know full well they have been removed from stolen cars. It is illegal to knowingly buy stolen parts and if the parts are identified they will be returned to the owners. To prevent any embarrassment or problems get receipts from the sellers along with the packaging and papers that usually accompany the product. Don't cooperate with fencing. You could become a victim.

► **The Foundation Patient Interests BES (Stichting Patiëntenbelangen BES, SPBBES) was launched in Bonaire last week to represent the interests of all medical patients on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in the light of the arbitrary and ill conceived cuts in the government sponsored medical insurance for the islands.**

SPB-BES, with George Soliana as President, will begin work immediately to provide a voice for patients in the rapidly changing area of medical-care coverage.

"Our primary goal is to help assure that the medical care available to the citizens of all three islands continues at a level that meets the real needs of our people," said Soliana, as he signed the incorporation papers for the new foundation.

► **The CTO (Caribbean Tourism Organization) reported that Caribbean tourism is back to pre-recession levels, with visitors from Canada and the US**

giving a boost to tourist arrivals. The Caribbean welcomed 25 million tourists last year, a near 5.5% rise over 2011, outpacing the rest of the world, which saw arrivals increase by 4%. Bonaire's tourist visits increased by 1.4% according to a TCB release. See related story on page 3. You can view the complete State of the Industry Report at www.onecaribbean.org.



► **After more than 10 years of the Sunset Beach resort area being an eyesore, the government is taking steps to attract developers.** Bonaire's Government Buildings Holding (BOG), the legal owner of the land, is looking for project developers via a tender offer. BOG is using the Curaçao firm, Heren 2 Caribbean BV, to help with the selection process. The 54,406-square-meter property has been divided into three parcels and an area that is to be accessible for the general public. However, precise details are not available and there is concern that the local people will not have very limited free access but would have to share the waterfront with tourist resorts. See story on page 9

► **From July 12 to 21, 2013, Bonaire will host the regional Caribbean games for Little League baseball, the "Serie del Caribe 2013" for the 11- and 12-year-old age categories.** The countries that are expected for certain are: Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, St. Thomas and Bonaire. The organization also hopes for Antigua and Jamaica, but there will only be certainty about participation after the upcoming congress.

The games are estimated to cost Bonaire approximately US \$250,000, but Sports Commissioner Kroon says the funds are already budgeted.

► **The Island Council of Bonaire unanimously approved an ordinance that regulates the official phonetic spelling of Papiamentu.** The council also established the ordinance that regulates the use of Papiamentu in communication with government and other entities

► **St. Eustatius Commissioner Carlyle Tear has drafted an unpopular action plan to remedy the situation concerning more than 60 neglected locked-up donkeys on his island.** Statia's Greenfound



Marina Melis in Statia

Foundation sounded the alarm about the suffering donkeys who were not being sufficiently fed and often without water in a letter to the editor published in *The Daily Herald* on February 13. Some of the animals had already died.

The Dutch Parliament also took notice.

"While government is restricted in funds and wants to cut the herd from 60 to 20 or 30 it will, however, care for a herd of donkeys. The donkeys have already been moved to a new and bigger pasture," said Tarr. **Marina Melis of Bonaire's Donkey Sanctuary travelled to St. Eustatius** to review the situation. On the radio she emotionally declared that the civil servant in question should be fired! Reportedly she offered to care for about 30 of the donkeys in Bonaire if someone could come up with financial support.



► **Help the Bonaire Animal Shelter.** Bring your old car license plates to the Carib Inn or the Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road. They are selling the plates for \$10 each and **ALL proceeds go to the Animal Shelter.**

► **A group of Dutch detectives was sent to Bonaire to interrogate Ramonsito Booi and Burney El Hage,** confirmed one of their attorneys, Everett Wilsoe. They scheduled five days to talk with Booi and three for El Hage.

In September last year the Joint Court of Justice issued an order to prosecute the duo, even though the Bonaire prosecutor saw no reason to because there is a good chance they may be found guilty. The charges regard a probe into possible fraud with the issuing of land by Booi and a mortgage for El Hage.

► **Between March 1 and August 31, 2013, interviewers from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) will conduct a Budget Survey** (in Dutch: *budgetonderzoek BO*) on Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire.

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The budget survey is a sample survey of households conducted by the CBS. The research aims to map the spending of the households. Information from the budget survey is used, among other sources, when calculating inflation.

The budget survey is held every five years on Bonaire. The last budget survey was held in 2004/2005. On Bonaire 600 households will be involved, on Saba 315 and St. Eustatius 450.

► **The Dutch Ministry of Waterways & Public Works granted Karel's Beach Bar a pier permit** last month. The pier will be to the north of the present pier. Pilings for

(Continued on page 8)

Tourism- Bonaire's Lifeblood

An Editorial

Is enough attention and care being given to Bonaire's tourism, the lifeblood of the island's economy?

While it cannot be disputed that over the last few years Bonaire has seen considerable improvement in health care, sanitation and education, the island's infrastructure remains stressed and there are several ambitious plans for upgrades. All these facilities are expensive and must be paid for out of public funds or by grants from The Netherlands.

If the growth and development of tourism, the artery of our economy, falters then we have a big problem.

Years ago the government-owned company (N.V.), the Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB), was founded to take the lead to design, implement and coordinate the sales and marketing of tourism-related activity for the island.

A few weeks ago I wrote in *The Reporter* about my visit to a travel fair in the Netherlands. I was very unhappy with the pitiful representation of Bonaire at that event. A few days later I read about a strike of the TCB staff supported by its labor union.

Background: The TCB staff and its newly appointed head found it impossible to accomplish meaningful work because the TCB Board of Directors, in office slightly more than a year, interfered in their ability to function on a day-to-day basis. A few days later, all board members resigned "en bloc." The TCB's prime shareholder, Bonaire Holding Maatschappij (BHM), in the

person of Island Commissioner of Economic Affairs Burney El Hage, withdrew its support from them. The next week El Hage appointed former MCB bank executive and interim Lt. Governor, Orphaline Saleh, to lead a restructuring of the TCB and redefine its charter from a government corporation to a non-profit foundation (*stichting*). The foundation would include tourism industry stakeholders perhaps acting as a Polish Diet*. I missed the focus on producing what is needed desperately, a tourism-oriented strategic plan!

The events of recent weeks are not a model of good governance. What a hassle: shareholder, board and staff all arguing. Who can do good job in such a situation?

Since Ronella Croes, recognized for her leadership, good relationship with BHM and buildup of cruise-ship tourism, left her post as TCB head three years ago for a more lucrative tourism position in Aruba TCB management has been a revolving door; first an interim director, then a project leader then a director who had weak support and left after a year. And now we have a new head of the TCB. I don't envy him.

But apart from all political turmoil there has long been a much more fundamental problem with our TCB tourist office.

For 10 years the TCB managed with an extremely frugal budget of around 2 million Antillean guilders. Then it was raised to \$1.6 million. The annual report called "government funding" indicates the bulk of it goes to fund of staff and offices in USA,



South America and The Netherlands. There is little left over to conduct needed marketing campaigns and consumer surveys. It's not surprising that the total number of visitors for 10 years has fluctuated around 70,000 for the last five years. And that there is no money left to pay for top tourism management talent.

Should we worry about the quality of work of the TCB? After all we seem to have a good on-island staff and competent overseas representatives. Yes, we do have to worry about how the government of our island handles the TCB.

In recent years, and even today, the TCB is a managerial mess. False economy practiced by the institution that is the lifeblood of our economy has crippled Bonaire tourism competitively. I call it "penny wise and pound foolish."

But perhaps there is no money available? But there is! An example: the 70,000 "stay-over" tourists, through the "room tax," contribute approximately \$2.8 million annually to the coffers of the island. Shouldn't that amount be fully available to our tourist office? That's just for starters. If you really want a good decisive marketing campaign and attract outstanding people add a few million dollars more. Recently Commissioner El Hage admitted that collection of

the room tax was lax and that perhaps only half that was due was being collected. But it is the responsibility of the government itself to collect that money and it most certainly can be a source of new funds. In a newspaper interview El Hage suggested raising the present budget by \$3 million in three years; that's \$1 million per year on top of the \$1.6 million actual budget.

Maybe that can be the source of the new funds. In a newspaper interview he suggested a budget of \$3 million was more realistic.

If government wants to be more active it should create incentives to increase the number of tourist facilities, add and improve flight connections. And decide to start a boosting campaign now to fill up the 10,000 airline seats currently empty in the present airlift capacity. That could mean an extra income stream of \$20 million to Bonaire and could discourage the airlines from cutting their flights. Does it really matter if the TCB is a government corporation or a foundation, considering the actions necessary?

The friendly employees of TCB are blameless. They do their best at their office. And last week it was announced that the TCB downtown office will be open through lunchtime. After all the sad TCB publicity in recent weeks it was gratifying to read a positive press release. ■ *Guus Gerritsen*

* In several northern European languages the expression "Polish diet" implies chaos and general disorder. The Polish Diet (Parliament) in 1505 adopted the *Nihil Novi* act which transferred legislative power from the king to the diet. This event marked the beginning of the period known as "Nobles' Democracy" where the state was ruled by the "free and equal" Polish nobility in intense and destabilizing competition.

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Born on Bonaire, October 14th, 1952 – Iris Semeler

“My father was from Nort di Saliña, my mother from Antriol. We were five sisters and one brother. My father was a good painter and a shoemaker as well. Almost everybody would come to the house to have their shoes repaired. I still live in that house – the house in Nort di Saliña where I grew up as a child.

My dad was strict; we were not allowed to cut our hair – we had to let it grow long, just like our grandmother used to wear it - and lipstick wasn't an option either. I was daddy's girl – after school I would help him with the shoes, putting leather under water to make it supple so he could re-sole the shoes with it.

When I was 20 I started working for Radio Hooyer 3 as an announcer. Before I was hired I had to do a commercial for a stove, Magic Chef, for about 10 minutes and they recorded my voice and sent it to Curaçao. Once it was approved I started working – all by myself! At that time the radio was only broadcasting from 6 pm until 9 pm. Then Boeboei Cecilia (now at Bon FM) became the station manager and the radio started broadcasting from 8 am to 10 pm. I worked with Bòi Antoin, Rudy Domacassé and Donny Wout. We were the crew, it was fun! For two, three years we went on like that and then Boeboei and I stepped out.

I was living on Curaçao when my dad

“...the situation of the elderly is not good. Everything has become so expensive and there are also many more charges and taxes introduced... life has become almost unaffordable.”

had a terrible accident. He was painting the house of Mr. Hernandez, the notary, and when he came down the ladder, he fell and landed with his neck onto barbed wire. He died practically on the spot. It was December 28, 1977. It was the blackest page in my life. A week before, my father had called me to ask if I was coming home for Christmas, but I was planning on coming to Bonaire for New Year's and that's what I'd told him. So, I came for my dad's funeral. He was only 68 years old.

Then I returned to Bonaire and applied for a job at the Augustinus Bookstore on Kaya Grandi. I started working there in 1978 with Josephien Trinidad-Piar. Together we ran the bookstore for 12 years, then Josephien moved on and set up something for herself while I stayed on for three more years. Then they closed the store down and six months later, in August 1993, I opened Flamingo Bookstore at the same location, but this time it was my own business. I've been here for about 34 years!”

She laughs “This bookstore is not just a bookstore; it's a social meeting point. Once the customers come in, they don't want to leave because they meet their friends and acquaintances here and they discuss family matters, world and local politics and health issues. They buy a newspaper, but they also read it here and comment on it. I have more than six chairs!

During the years I worked at the Au-

gustinus Bookstore my son Javier was born in 1985. It was a difficult delivery, but he really is a fine boy now! I was a single mom and for the first two years of his life Javier went to my cousin Elsa Molina's during the daytime. Then I sent him to Curaçao to live with another cousin of mine because I didn't want him to go to crèche at such a young age. He stayed there for one year, then he came back to Bonaire to start kindergarten at the age of three.

To have a child... it was a beautiful thing. Presently Javier is working in communications at Mariadal. We don't see a lot of each other lately because he's busy with his work and sports and of course he has a life of his own with his partner Tazin and their beautiful little boy – my first grandchild – Tyler, who was born on the 21st of September last year. I'm not babysitting yet, but I am certainly planning on doing so!

Many years ago, when I worked for Augustinus Bookstore on Curaçao, the bookstore set up the ‘Kontest di Fli’ – the kite competition – there. Then, together with Josephien and Eugenio de Jong, I had the idea to start it up on Bonaire. The first time was in 1979, with 75 kids who just came to fly their kites at the field where Kooyman is now. The following year it became a competition. From there we went on. It was something totally new

and lots of people came to watch the competitions. It was a huge success. Every year we had a different jury and the event kept on growing. Sometimes we had 260 participants, including contestants from Curaçao! Now we stick to 200 contestants, otherwise it takes too long. We also have themes like who has the most beautiful, the biggest, the smallest, the most original or the strangest kite. And some people take months to build their kites.

This year, on April 7th, we celebrate 35 years of the *Kontest di Fli*. All those years I've been the coordinator, but there is also a committee we cannot do without: Jimmy, Igmarr, Sherrel, Javier, Achibald, Rina, Stephen, Arthur, Gerald, Hubert and Kurban and... next year I won't be coordinating anymore. I will hand it over to Gerald Victorina. But Flamingo Bookstore will keep on organizing the event... until I don't know when!

I was also the secretary of the *Sentro di Bario di Nort di Saliña*. I did that for seven years, then I started working as a volunteer for the 60+ Club, and now I have been the chairman of the board for over 15 years! Our group is called ‘*Sesenta Plus Flor di Orkidia*’ and we and **only** we have our own clubhouse, ‘Centro Orkidia Professor Alejandro Saleh,’ next to the bakery in Nort di Saliña. We get together four times a month. People come for a ‘*charla*’ – an informative meeting – a dance, gymnastics or a lecture, but we also organize activities like we invite Mariadal to come and take people's blood



Iris with her daughter-in-law Tazin, her son Javier and her grandson Tyler.



Iris Semeler at Flamingo Bookstore with her client Mrs. de Windt.

pressure or give them a flu vaccination. There are about 36 members from all over the island, aged 60 to about 90 years old, and we have six volunteers. And of course every one who wants to make a donation or wants to become a sponsor of the 60+ Club is more than welcome!

I think that our club is important because the situation of the elderly is not good. Everything has become so expensive and there are also many more charges and taxes introduced. So, if you're older and you've got your own little house, life has become almost unaffordable. It is very difficult for the elderly to pay for all those expenses, and many times they need to ask their family for help, which is not a nice position to be in.

Well, in 2002 I was chosen ‘Woman of the Year.’ In 2004 I was invited together with Bòi Antoin to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Kingdom Statute in The Netherlands. About five years ago I was honored to become a Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau, and three years ago, on December 15th, on the ‘Dia di Nort di Saliña,’ I was also distinguished because of all that I did for the people and...yes, I am proud of it!

Lately, from 4 -6 pm on Sunday afternoons, I have my own radio show with Radio Digital. It's called ‘Orange Vitamins’ and I'm only play songs from

Dutch artists, and I only speak Dutch. I do it together with Mr. Kuks and we're getting a lot of feedback from local people who really enjoy the show.

I love music, all sorts of music and I love to dance too! I also love to cook – *kuminda stoba* (stew) the local way - and then I invite my friends to come over. I live alone and I have to admit that the biggest part of my social life takes place at work. Six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 7 am until 6 pm I am in my store. I don't close during lunch hours because then the people also come in—to cool off from the hot street, or to wait until they start working again. It's cozy and very entertaining, but also an opportunity to share your feelings and thoughts with others. The warmth of the people – that is and always will be what Bonaire means to me.

You see, the way Bonaire has changed and still is changing rapidly, has given me this miserable and uneasy feeling like... I want to flee... but where to go... I live in the house where my parents raised me, but everything else is different now and I feel very insecure about the future...” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Tourism History

Part 2 of a Series

In 1940, the Germans invaded and occupied Holland. Although far away



Photo:Heit

The internment camp

from the continent that was torched in World War II, the islands of the Colony Curaçao were drawn in as well. As soon as war broke out in Europe, the inhabitants of Aruba and Curaçao who were of German or Austrian nationalities (Jews as well!) or who were sympathetic to the National Socialist ideology of the Germans were singled out and picked up as soon as The Netherlands capitulated to the Germans. This was done to prevent them from becoming a "fifth column" on the islands; they could undertake sabotage against the oil refineries which were vital in supplying petrol for the allied air forces. Together with sailors of German vessels that happened to be in the ports of the islands, they were first incarcerated in local prisons. That was on May 10, 1940.

Soon after, however, they were transported to the island of Bonaire. There they

were put up in local schools- the women and children separated from the men - a total of 461 persons, a migration unprecedented for the island of Bonaire. Most of the 107 automobiles on the island were required for the transportation of the new "guests" who were not very willing to cooperate, which goes without saying! Dutch marines had to be brought in to assist in the guarding of the prisoners. In July of that year, the 220 imprisoned shipmates were transferred to Jamaica, and for the remaining prisoners an internment camp was built along the shore, south of the capital, Kralendijk. It consisted of four parts, separated from each other: one for German men, one for Dutch men, one for women and children and one for the guards. They all lived in wooden barracks. Later the families were reunited in small dwellings inside the camp. After 1941, the tight rules inside the camp were gradually eased. Some prisoners could even work, outside as well as inside the camp. And they were allowed to build their own houses on the island. At the end of the war, most prisoners left the island. Some of them decided to stay, some married and their offspring still live on the island.

Someone who was sent to the internment camp by mistake was Jules Heitkönig, a Dutch citizen who had left Holland in 1938 and had found a job at a jewelry store in Aruba. On May 10, 1940, he was arrested and transported to Bonaire just because of his German last name. After the war he remained on the island. He married a local woman and started a family. Jules engaged

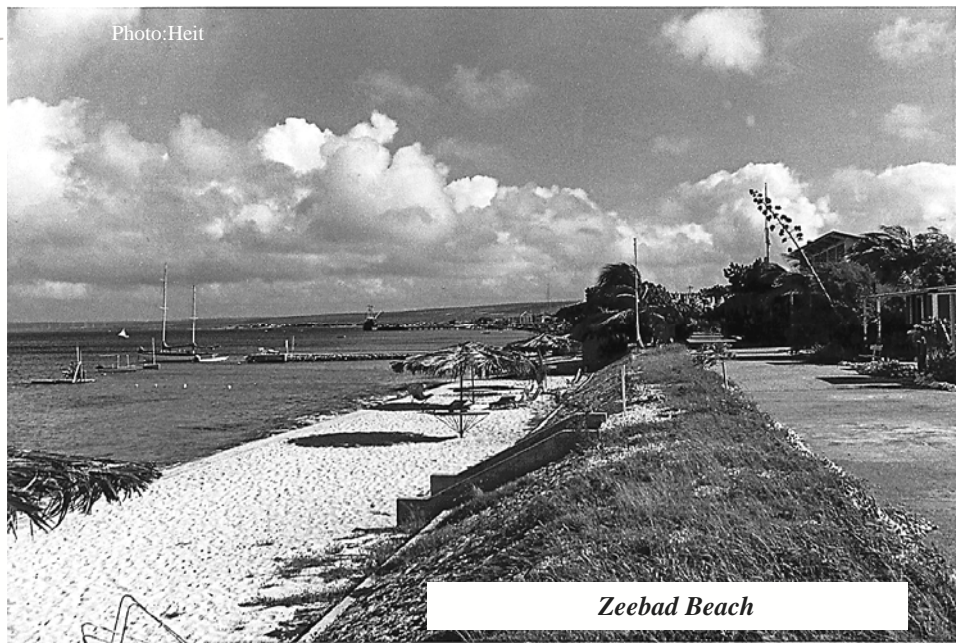


Photo:Heit

Zeebad Beach

in several commercial and social activities. A goldsmith by trade and an amateur photographer who ran a photo shop, he was also known for selling souvenirs made out of genuine Bonairean materials, like reef coral and conch shells. Products of his craftsmanship were regularly used as gifts for visiting members of the Dutch royal family.

The presence of the internment camp in the early 40s brought a lot of commotion as well as social and commercial activities. Construction materials were needed for a military camp, housing for officers and a hospital had to be built. And military personnel had wages to spend so there was a remarkable surge of prosperity on the island.

After the prisoners left in 1945, the barracks of the internment camp were transformed into a hotel accommodation: Hotel Zeebad (Sea Bath), later renamed Flamingo



Beach Club, the first tourist resort on the island. The former hospital was made into a restaurant. The hotel opened its doors in 1952. This was the beginning of the construction of a series of hotels on the island in the decades that followed and the development of its tourism industry.

In this way the tiny island of Bonaire made history: an internment camp was transformed into a seaside resort! ■ *Evert Bongers*

Coming next issue: Captain Don arrives...

Evert Bongers lives in Aruba but knows Bonaire well. He studied at the university in Holland and since 2006 has been a Vocational counselor at Colegio Arubano.




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Who Will Fix Our Planes?



Students in the classroom

Bonaire's Aviation Maintenance Technician School needs a new home. Their building on the former Sister Maria Hoppner property has been sold and will be converted into an alcohol addiction recovery facility.

The successful grass roots operation was begun by Jacinto "Boeboei" Frans on January 14, 2008, with 12 students in the day school and eight at night. Currently it has 15 day students, with eight in their final year. Thirteen have already graduated, eight already are working for local airlines like DAE and Tiara Air. Three are trainees. It is a model for providing education to fill a need on the island and offer an opportunity to youngsters. It's a private school with eight instructors. It doesn't get a subsidy from the government, but student loans are available. Talks have recently opened for merging the school with the Bonaire Community High School (SGB) advanced education "MBO" schools.

It's not an easy course. It takes 2½ years to complete and costs the student \$15,600. There's a six-month period of practical experience and 1,850 lessons which meet the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Its students come from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten. The school applied for the Dutch MBO level 4 qualification, which is equivalent to EASA (European Aviation Safety Authority License) and it was granted by the Dutch Minister of Education Culture and Science. Exams are EASA exams. They don't target FAA certification because of Bonaire's closer connection to Europe. However, the school has an



School airplane

agreement with an FAA school in Puerto Rico for future developments. The school's long range plan is to attract students from the Caribbean basin and even South America.

All the students who come from off-island live "on campus" (in 12 rooms) which is in the same building as where the classes are held. This is a big advantage for the students because they only get charged for their meals, electricity and water. And they have no problem with transportation to get to school. Students are tested before they are accepted and they have to be 17 or older. They even have an actual airplane that they work on to make airworthy.

What kind of building or facility does the school now need? Primarily it needs a hangar with the facilities to conduct classes and aircraft maintenance. It believes it can afford to handle a million euro mortgage. Can anyone help them? Contact Peter Winterwerp, the Chairman of Fundashon AMFEMA (Atkerí i Manehá Fondonan di Estudio pa Mekániko di Avion) at 787-0358 or email amfemabonaire@hotmail.com. ■ G.D.

Fundashon AMFEMA promotes the interests of the students of the Aviation Maintenance Technician School (AMTS) on Bonaire. Board members are Peter Winterwerp, Chairman; Cassandra Nicolaas, Treasurer; Destry Frans, Secretary; and members Xiomara Frans, Ronald Coffy, Ellen Ignacio and Elfrid Thomas.



March 17 will be our last chance to follow Bonaire's Art Trail or *Kaminda di Arte* this season. Eleven of Bonaire's fine artists have joined forces to hold art shows in their workshops on the third Sunday of every month during the "high season."

The artists offer oil, acrylic and water color paintings, mosaics, wood art, aquarelle (a water painting technique), sculpture, ceramics and more.

The participating artists are located all over the island from Sabana to Sabadeco so it may be too much to visit all the participants in one day, but you can make a choice and visit just a few. Buying art directly from the creators is the most economical way to add to your collection as there are no gallery fees involved.

Locate the ateliers with help of flyers available at hotels and other locations which have the address map of the route and also a little description of each artist to make it easier to decide which artists you want to visit next Sunday, March 17. G./L. D.

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HELMETS ON WHEELS

This is the 16th of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Jonathan Nissanov Flashes Over Bonaire

Kralendijk/
Washington Park,
Bonaire –

On Monday February 18 that Jonathan Nissanov took off with his Trek 3500 mountain bike from Buddy Dive Resort, heading for a tour in the Washington National Park. Nissanov is from Las Vegas and he had just one week to spend on the island of Bonaire to train for a triathlon and to explore the underwater world. This was the second time he visited the little tropical is-

land. And he was a kind of in a hurry. It took him 49 minutes to cover the distance of 9.37 miles between Buddy Dive Resort and the entrance of the park, just following unpaved roads and dirt tracks. Jonathan was well protected, wearing suitable shoes and clothing, sunglasses and, of course: a helmet. In front of the office of the park I met him and he informed me about his trip and training. Apart from being a professor Nissanov is also a photographer so he was more than willing to pose for the camera still wearing his helmet. Nissanov was in a hurry. In the last hour he did not see anything from the nature of the island as he just flashed over the island, just leaving a cloud of dust behind. Ahead of him the park was waiting. He thought he could do the tour in one hour and a half. I wrote down his email address and off he went!

He actually needed one hour and 52 minutes to finish the job as a flat tire took 14 minutes of Jonathan's costly time. Jonathan: "It was a very small leak and I was not able to find it. So I reinstalled the tube and the tire and I raced on. I was going so fast, I could not see a thing."

In my car I followed the same trail as Nissan did. Just a little bit further than Boka Slagbaai I saw a kind of snake in the middle of the track. This appeared to be a curly cable lock. I was almost sure this lock belonged to Jonathan since he was the only biker in the park that day.

At home I sent him an email and later we enjoyed a non-alcoholic drink. Lock and key were united again! At least, that is what we thought...

But As Jonathan appeared to have also lost his key. A few days later he sent this email to Bonaire: "An addition to our story. Turns out that I also did lose the key! On Friday Lise and I drove through the park again. I had inkling on where I may have lost it. Wouldn't you know it, I found it!" ■ *Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer*



A photograph of a very sporty and nearly overheated American. Jonathan Nissanov from Las Vegas trains for a triathlon. He is well protected, wearing a helmet as the most important part of his outfit. (Picture: J@n Brouwer)



Useful Gadgets

This is the second column about useful gadgets for sale on Bonaire. This is the first article in a row of 100.

Bonaire/Finland – It was in the 30s of the last century that Finnish fisherman Lauri Rapala (1905–1974) thought of creating his own artificial fishing lure. Those days Rapala fished for trout in the lakes of Finland, using live bait. In 1936 he made his first successful lure from local bark using a knife and some sandpaper. His fishing lure became popular and is now well known over the world.

In 1964 Rapala's fish and fillet knife was introduced. Today Rapala's factories develop and produce all kinds of fisherman's knives. The Rapala 126SP is a fine example of a reliable and affordable knife. The 126SP-model has a blade made of stainless steel. This flexible blade has a length of 150 millimeters or 6 inches. The thickness of the blade is only one millimeter which makes the knife very suitable for following the skin and the bones of the fish. The handle is made of a dark red colored hygienic plastic and measures 120 millimeters. In the handle there is an 8-millimeter hole for an optional lanyard or cord. Unfortunately this stainless steel fillet knife does not float. There are almost no knives known with floating capacities. This knife is really light and fits your right or left hand very well since it is absolutely symmetric and sharpened on both sides of the blade. For safety you can connect the lanyard to your wrist or connect the knife with a little piece of cork. The Rapala 126SP comes in a very basic sheath. When you get attached to the fillet knife it is better to create your own holster out of a piece of old leather or so. The razor blade sharp Rapala fillet knife is manufactured for the Rapala Corporation, Vaakso, Finland, and made in China. The knife is for sale for a minimal \$8.90 and available at Budget Marine. ■

J@n Brouwer



Razor blade sharp stainless steel Rapala fillet knife
The knife is light, flexible and very easy and comfortable to work with.
(Photograph: J@n Brouwer)



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Chef Search



Who wants to go to Miami ?
Any and all professional chefs/cooks/sous chefs interested in gaining experience and knowledge and compete with other Caribbean islands should sign up NOW for a position on the team to go to The Taste of The Caribbean competition in Miami this summer.

The Culinary committee (above) met last month and is looking for a Bonaire Team of six enthusiastic dedicated Horeca cooks, chefs and/or professionals plus one bartender to participate in the June 26-30 competition in Miami. Committee members will be contacting all restaurants, on an island wide search.

For information contact: Floris at Rum Runners floris@habitatbonaire.com; Isidoor at Forma ivanriemsdijk@hotmail.com; Wil from Will's Grill lhbonaire@hotmail.com; Vernon from SGB/Rose Inn vernonmartijn@yahoo.com; Han at Spice han@spiebonaire.com; or Sara Matera saramatera@yahoo.com.

The team is to be sponsored by BONHATA and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). ■ *Press release/ G.D.*

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
the pier are already in place. Additional local permits are required before the construction is to restart.

► **The Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN) has completely renewed its website.** Visitors to the website should find information neatly arranged and visually more attractive. Style and content remain the same but now conform to Dutch standards. The changes are mainly in the mechanics of the site. The address of the site remains www.rijksdienstcn.com. The website will continue to provide information about the various ministries, legislation and rules. Publications, news and press releases are also on the site.

► **From June 17- 22, Bonaire will host the first Caribbean international kite board event** where the world's best pro kite boarders will work with the local community to set up a ground breaking event in the Caribbean (Antilles). The event will host a "ride with the pro's" for local people and tourists, a two-day, wake-style contest and will end with a charity down-winder. Every evening there will be parties and barbecues organized at different spots. More details will be published as the date nears.

► **Clients of the former E-Zone service of Nieuwe Post should now direct their mail to a new address in the US.** Nieuwe Post partnered with Puntomio.com in Nieuwe Post's quest to continuously improve its service. The new address for customers of Nieuwe Post to direct their goods to is:

7701 NW 15th street,
Miami, Florida 33106, USA

► Remember to remind the stores and restaurants you visit to advertise in *The Reporter*. **Their support keeps us free.**

■ *G./L. D.*



► **Bòi Antoin's cultural heritage TV program *Herensia* will also be viewable via Internet beginning this week on www.bonaire.tv** This was made possible by a donation from Ryan Oduber to the *Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano* (FuHiKuBo). There have been over 700 *Herensia* programs recorded over the years which record the musings of Bonaire natives and residents of years gone by. They're an important part of Bonaire's legacy to future generations.

Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to Yuchi Molina who celebrates her birthday on March 7. Even though Yuchi has retired from her work at Inpo in Playa, she makes a special trip from her home in Rincon to town pick up *The Reporter* every fortnight. Yuchi is *The Reporter's* "woman in Rincon," responsible for delivery to shops and restaurants in Rincon. Thank you so much, Yuchi, for all the years you have helped *The Reporter!* May you have a very happy day.



Recompression Recognition



Foundation Recompression Tank Bonaire. photo

“**T**he recompression tank on Bonaire is the only hyper-modern facility for treatment of diving accidents and diabetic wounds in the ABC Islands,” according to the chairman of the Foundation Recompression Tank Bonaire, **Ruud Vermeulen**.

Forty-five patients were treated in the hyperbaric chamber of the Foundation last year. In total, they received 274 treatments. In most cases (37) it involved hyperbaric treatment of divers after a diving incident. The other patients (8) received hyperbaric oxygen therapy to accelerate the slow healing process of wounds.

Medical Director **Dr. Dick van der Vaart** quoted these figures during a meeting of the more than 35 team members who are always on standby to assist and treat patients. There were also patients from Curaçao and Aruba among the 45 treated last year. He surprised seven volunteers with a certificate of merit for their exceptional dedication through the years. These included supervisors **Malin Kayser, Pamela Teitel and Linda Baker**, who've been doing this work for over 20 years, while **Diana Nicolaas, Harold Kurban and Ronald Simonis** were honored for being always available when needed. **Maureen Mercera** received a special mention because she, together with a patient involved in a serious diving accident in Curaçao last year who was flown to Bonaire for treatment, went to a depth of over 100 feet in the tank environment. A depth of 65 feet is normal, ■ *Press release/ G.D.*

MONTHLY Goatcheese recipe

Fresh and healthy



Cheesecake "Semper Kontentu"

Dessert serves 4

Ingredients:

Goatcheese Semper Kontentu	200 gr
Heavy cream	250 ml
Eggwhite	75 gr
Powdered sugar	100 gr
Butter	100 gr
"Bastogne" cookies	15 x

How to prepare:

Use a cake mold with a 21cm diameter. Melt butter on a low flame in a small pan. Crush the cookies in a blenders until there are no more large lumps. Mix the cookies with the melted butter in a bowl. Cover the bottom of the mold with your cookie mixture. Blend the goatcheese until its smooth. Whip the eggwhite (in a fat-free bowl) with 50 grams of powdered sugar until it peaks. Whip the cream with the rest of the powdered sugar until it is thick like yoghurt. Mix the goatcheese with the whipped cream and fold in the eggwhite. Put this mixture on top of the crust. Let it cool in the refrigerator for two hours. Add some fresh strawberries or mango and serve it cold. Enjoy the taste, made with love, enjoy Aletta's Semper Kontentu goatcheese.

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Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

SUNSET BEACH DEVELOPMENT OFFCOURSE

This is a copy of a letter sent on 28 February 2013 to Mr. John Soliano of Bonaire Overheidsgebouwen N.V. which oversees the management of island-owned land:

Dear John:

Sidney Manuel and I thank you for your time on Tuesday and for that of Sr. Anthony Nicolaas. As always it is a pleasure to meet with you. We appreciate your showing us the planned splitting of the Sunset Beach property although, as we made clear, we believe this is not at all in the best interests of the Bonairean community.

The main concern of Fundashon Playa Pùbliko is to assure full access and use of the marvelous beachfront of that property for tourists and for the entire Bonaire community. The plan that BOG has put forward falls far short from that.

Let me be specific about our concerns:

The area you have allotted to public beach is completely inadequate. You stated that it is approximately 50 meters wide (North to South) or only about 15% of the total beachfront) which is not sufficient to accommodate more than a small number of people at one time. Based on studies of carrying capacity for beaches around the world (e.g. Mauritius, Egypt, India, Tanzania etc) about 8 m² is required for each person using a beach. This means that, even at this high density (for Bonaire) the proposed public beach could only accommodate a maximum of about 60 people (local and tourists) whereas the full 300+-meter beach could accommodate close to 400.

Your stated goal of allowing for local businesses to be developed there has no economic basis. If there is only a 50-meter-wide beach there would not be enough potential trade there to sustain a viable business whereas a 300+-meter long beach could easily do so.

Our definition of 'access' is far more expansive than yours. While you plan to provide strictly legal access to the whole beach, your own concept will restrict the kinds of activities local people can engage in for more than 85% of the beachfront, leaving only about 15% for the public and tourists.

We emphatically disagree with your concept of limited use of the balance of the beachfront to be "determined by the developers." This is a recipe for complete exclusion of Bonaireans and making their access uncomfortable or costly.

As you explained the current plan, "people will be able to use the 'public area portion of the beach as

they like but, if they go on the beach in front of the proposed developments, they may not barbeque" or, we assume, camp, play music or engage in many of the activities that Bonaireans expect when they go to the waterside.

Your plan would allow the developers to cover the beach with chairs and lounges (for which they would charge a fee as do Plaza and Harbour Village) and in other ways to obstruct or intimidate local residents who only wish to enjoy their time at the sea. The government has proven itself unable to enforce public access at Plaza, Harbour Village and other developed sites where, by law, there should be access. There is no reason to expect that the Sunset Beach situation will be any different.

As BOG has split the property, the depth (sea to property line) of the beach appears to be quite inadequate for it to be shared between the developments and the public. Once new hotels or condos appear, real access by local people will be both extremely limited and intimidating. We believe that existing law claims the first 50 meters from mean high tide as public beachfront. The BOG plan does not even come close to this. It is not a valid argument that the government has ignored this requirement in the past. Now is the time to take a stand for the people of Bonaire and not for the developers.

Should the developers decide to build condos instead of hotels, this problem will be even worse as the 'owners' will expect to have restricted beach rights having paid for their property.

While the items above represent serious objections to the plans of BOG we do acknowledge some good points you brought out:

Your requirement for the developers to contribute to the cost of beach development and maintenance. However, we are concerned that this may make them think that they 'own' the beach since they are paying for it.

A willingness to consult with Fundashon Playa Pùbliko in setting negotiating points when the time comes for contract deliberations. We would have appreciated being consulted before this decision was made since both BOG and the Bestuurscollege have been aware of our concerns and interest for almost three years.

The BOG plan is a series of lost opportunities for Bonaire which will never come again.

The opportunity for our community to have full access to the last large beach area on the island

The opportunity to create a recreation and entertainment focus for the island

The opportunity to create new Bonairean-owned businesses and the associated jobs



Bonaireans enjoying their Sunset Beach in the 80s

The opportunity to create a new magnet for our tourists and enhance our tourism product

An opportunity to encourage the blending of tourists and local residents in a pleasant, uniquely Bonairean environment

The opportunity for Bonaire to make a dramatic statement about its tourism product, about ecology and to re-enforce the unique nature of Bonaire for our visitors.

We know that it is late in your process to make some of the changes we have asked for but, at a minimum, the entire public beach area should be no less than the required 50 meters deep from high water and the ability of the developers to dictate the uses of the beach should be rescinded. This property is large enough to allow for that. We believe

that, with this width there is room for both visitors and local people to share one of the best spots on the island for relaxing and enjoying the ocean.

We hope to continue our dialogue with BOG.

Alan Gross

For Fundashon Playa Pùbliko
cc: Sr. Anthony Nicolaas
Bestuur of BOG

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All Denture Lab -A New Look



Evelien and Charlotte in front of the lab. Alas, Roy Wanga couldn't be there because he was working elsewhere.

In the middle of a very busy period of time Evelien Rijswijk, owner of All Denture Lab Bonaire, decided to rent the location next to her existing lab when that place became vacant. A thorough renovation followed and the units were connected. As a result the laboratory became way more efficient and spacious. When Evelien saw the murals of the Krioyo restaurant in Playa, she became so enthusiastic that she wanted to spice up the walls of her business next to the Botica in Antriol as well.

So, she paid a visit to Manuela Winklaar, who "did" the murals at the Krioyo restaurant, but Manuela told her she couldn't paint people and gave Evelien the phone number of Roy Wanga, a painter from Nort di Saliña. "I wanted something that would distinguish my business from the other buildings around me," Evelien says, "and when Roy came up with this design I really liked his idea!

It's a funny mural, because Roy painted the people as if they were real people, same height. And now, when someone is waiting or leaning against the wall, he or she just blends in real well into the mural! We - my co-worker Charlotte Andrea and I - are very happy with the result and clients and passersby are also appreciative about the make-over! It was well worth it! ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Conch Treasure Lost

Bonaire/In the *Mondi* -

On Saturday, February 9, a huge amount of 190 empty conch shells was recovered along an unpaved road in the stretched and hard-to-access outback between the barrio of Nikiboko and the former Rooi Lamoenchi Plantation. All the shells were more or less the size of youngster or adult size, several years old. A



The empty shells of 190 counted conch shells. Some measure over 30 centimeters/12 inches long. All are still pink inside and were harvested alive. (Photo: J@n Brouwer)

lot of them had an overall size of 12 inches/20 centimeters and more. No baby shells were harvested. Some conch shells were marked with a stainless steel tag showing a number, attached with a tie rap to the creature of the sea. All shells had a manmade hole in them, made with a chisel or a screwdriver to allow a knife to cut the attaching muscle at rear of the shell. This way the shellfish loses control and then it is easy to take it out by the finder. All shells were pink and shiny inside so they all were alive before they were caught. Since taking conch is forbidden by law the collecting of conch in fact is poaching.

However, who is allowed to judge? Conch has been a local food for ages on the island of Bonaire and the costs of

living are rising every day since the economic growth is going down worldwide, and it is the weakest link in the chain of society that is hurt the worst.

Conch are growing and are harvested in a lot of tropical waters, but on Bonaire conch are protected. Deep frozen conch is available and also for sale on Bonaire. They are harvested in countries like Honduras, but it is not known under what conditions. The price of a kilogram of deep frozen conch is over \$25. Unfortunately in a way it makes sense for people to go fishing for conch. Sometimes the world is made a little complicated by its people ... ■ J@n Brouwer



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Walk-a-thon #11

The Walk-a-thon! It might be the largest show of support of any community organization on Bonaire. Individuals, groups of friends, families, staffs of companies walking or biking, supporting the Special Olympics team, commemorating the slaves' trip from the salt flats in the south to their family homes in Rincon.

The Special Olympics 11th consecutive Walk-a-Thon was held last Sunday, March 3. There were 587 tickets sold. Most participants gathered in the dark at the Slave Huts at 5 am. According to sources there were more than 90 walkers/runners and 100 bikers at the start, even a roller blader. However, others joined along the way, all ending up at Pasa Dia di Karino in Rincon, 34 k. from the start. At one point, at Tolo, 149 bikers were counted.

It was a perfect morning – sunny, no rain as in other years, but with enough cloud cover to make it cool.

The first biker to arrive in Rincon was **Luigi Egbrechts** who made it in 1 ½ hours! Winning walkers were veterans **Nazario Alberto** and **Herman Winklaar** (cover) who did it in 3 ¾ hours!.

Stations were set up along the way, staffed by volunteers offering water, orange and watermelon slices, pan dushi and lots of encouragement. At the end everyone got homemade chicken soup, "a power lunch," a drink and an impressive Walk-A-Thon Certificate. ■ L.D.

Walk-a-thon



The Digicel bikers who went the whole way, stopping once for a swim in the sea



The NAPA sponsored station at Hilltop



Young and totally exhausted!



The SSS Team- Joseph Rodriguz and Christopher Dirksz



Along the tourist road

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- Nort di Salinja
- Amboina
- Republiek
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For a group of 6+

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Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

What is better— a battery or a mother-in-law? A battery, because the battery at least has a positive side.

A drunk gets on a bus and asks: Who lost a wad of money tied with a rubber band? A guy on the bus yells: I did! The drunk says: Well, I found the rubber band.

Feminist: Why do they say that a dog is man's best friend? Because animals understand each other!

Feminist: In what way are chewing gum and men similar? The more you step on them the more they stick to you.

A guy goes to the library and asks the librarian: Excuse me, ma'am, where can I find the book titled "Man – The Perfect Being?" The librarian answered: Keep walking until you come to the science fiction section.

Husband: "Sweetie, you are going to suffer a lot the day I leave you."

Wife: "Yeah, sure, who do you think you are, the Internet?"

Why did the drunk take apart the computer? He was looking for the CD Rum.

Buchito: Sweetheart, what would you do if I told you we won the lottery?

Carmen: Well, I would divorce you and leave with half the money.

Buchito: Well, we won \$24. Here's your \$12. Go have a happy life.

In what way is a woman like a hurricane. They arrive very strong and intense and leave with your car and your house.

A pastor was running for his life because there was a lion chasing him. Suddenly, the pastor fell to his knees and began to pray: "Dear God, please let this lion become Christian."

The lion also fell to his knees and began to pray: "Dear God, thank you for this food that I am going to have."

Juan was in class with all his friends. The teacher was late in arriving and the kids started a huge free-for-all in the classroom. When the teacher arrived she saw the chaos and began to ask each kid what they had done.

Juanita, what did you do? I painted on the blackboard.

Pedro, what did you do? I threw my chair in the front of the class.

Buchi, what did you do? I threw a bee out the window.

You see children, Buchi is the only one who conducted himself properly in class and did something right.

After a couple of minutes, a young girl, looking battered, knocked on the door and came into the classroom.

The teacher asked her: Who are you? The girl answered: My name is Bee. ■ *Translated by Jane Madden-Disko*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Miami Springs, Florida

A well known member of the Bonaire Golf club, Piedra So, Mr. Hugo Leter visited the Miami Springs Golf Club and took *The Bonaire Reporter* with him, probably to fill in some spare time....

You must know that Hugo Leter

did his first steps in this sport on the golf course of the Bonaire golf club, Piedra So, and was given some lessons by one of our members.

This golf course is a special one, on the east coast of Bonaire, near Washikemba. The course is designed to use the natural environment as much as possible. No grass on the fairways and greens, with the soil as it is. The design can be characterized as ECOLOGICAL! It's a very challenging course, also for the more experienced golfers, but fascinating, given the fact that the northeast trade winds sometimes add an extra difficulty to the game.

The Bonaire Golf Club Piedra So (which means "just stone," a good qualification) has been around since 2004. There are more or less 25 members now. And the club can have many more! The necessary golf gear is available. Local playing costs are only \$20. And if you want, initial practices can be offered.

Just visit our website www.piedraso.com and you will find all the necessary information including phone numbers. You can call to make an appointment. ■



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Madison, Wisconsin, USA

To help catch up with the backlog of Picture Yourself entries we are publishing two submissions per edition



Bonaire resident Paule and Chloe Hausmann with Jack (the butterfly dog) at the Willy Street Fair in Madison, Wisconsin. The best annual two-day street party located on Madison's own 'Hippy Street' has live music, dancing, parades and lots of craziness! ■

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Budget Marine Bonaire is looking for a Part Time Sales Associate

Applicant must have experience with boats and knowledge of marine equipment, repair materials and experience in sales. A big plus is experience in solar and other alternative energies. Applicant must also be competent with computers, enthusiastic and ready to learn. **Please email resumes to Bonaire@budgetmarine.com or stop by in person at Budget Marine, Kaya Carlos Nicolaas 4.**

HP Laserjet P2035. Perfect condition. Almost new. Only \$199. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.

For Sale: Scrambler Ocean Kayak w/ accessories; incl. Regs, Tanks, BC's. Call after March 12th. 717-0161.

FOUND: 3 keys on a ring. Phone 782 -7062 also 786-2590.

Attention ART-lovers: For Sale by art-collector, various paintings of famous Haitian Masters. Viewings by appointment. Call: 795 - 0555 or 786 - 3358

FOR SALE Mac mini, Electronics, regulator, golf set, race bike, CO2 4,5mm air pistol, Makita drill, surf-board, etc. This and much more sold very affordable through our online porch sale. www.onlineporchsale.com

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For sale: one Linksys router, \$ 40,-, ink cartridges black + color for hp printer nr. 350 xl + 351xl each for \$ 15, trafo 600, \$ 50,- Phone 717-2278

Looking for a full time or two part time positions in a shop or supermarket, light administration work in an office, cleaning homes+ **an apartment to rent** for around \$500.00 a month, or more if some of the utilities are included. Sharing OK. Email: islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 08		03:23	09:36	17:31	22:37		
		-0.06 ft	0.86 ft	-0.19 ft	0.32 ft	6:47	18:45
Sat 09		04:30	10:32	18:18	23:36		
		-0.02 ft	0.75 ft	-0.14 ft	0.38 ft	6:46	18:45
Sun 10		05:45	11:32	19:05			
		0.01 ft	0.63 ft	-0.09 ft		6:45	18:46
Mon 11	00:37	07:11	12:39	19:51	New Moon		
	0.44 ft	0.03 ft	0.51 ft	-0.04 ft		6:45	18:46
Tue 12	01:36	08:42	13:55	20:37			
	0.51 ft	0.01 ft	0.41 ft	0.00 ft		6:44	18:46
Wed 13	02:32	10:05	15:12	21:22			
	0.57 ft	-0.03 ft	0.34 ft	0.04 ft		6:44	18:46
Thu 14	03:23	11:14	16:23	22:05			
	0.63 ft	-0.08 ft	0.30 ft	0.06 ft		6:43	18:46
Fri 15	04:10	12:11	17:23	22:46			
	0.68 ft	-0.12 ft	0.27 ft	0.07 ft		6:42	18:46
Sat 16	04:53	12:59	18:13	23:23			
	0.71 ft	-0.15 ft	0.26 ft	0.08 ft		6:42	18:46
Sun 17	05:32	13:41	18:54	23:59			
	0.73 ft	-0.16 ft	0.25 ft	0.08 ft		6:41	18:46
Mon 18	06:10	14:20	19:29				
	0.74 ft	-0.16 ft	0.24 ft			6:40	18:46
Tue 19	First Quarter	00:34	06:47	14:56	20:02		
		0.07 ft	0.74 ft	-0.15 ft	0.23 ft	6:40	18:46
Wed 20		01:09	07:23	15:31	20:35		
		0.06 ft	0.73 ft	-0.14 ft	0.24 ft	6:39	18:46
Thu 21		01:46	07:59	16:05	21:08		
		0.06 ft	0.71 ft	-0.11 ft	0.25 ft	6:39	18:46
Fri 22		02:27	08:37	16:37	21:44		
		0.07 ft	0.67 ft	-0.08 ft	0.27 ft	6:38	18:46

REAL ESTATE, RENTALS, ETC...

Bonaire Del Sol Apartment for Rent in Hato. 1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom Living room & Kitchen \$ 750, - p/m 2 persons excl. utilities; \$650, - p/m 1 person excl. utilities, T.V. & Internet. Close to Saint James School of Medicine. 100m from the sea. Easy walking distance of Supermarkets and Restaurants, etc. Cell 599 785 0918

New and beautiful Studio in Santa Barbara for rent from 1st April. 36m², full furnished, Pool, W-LAN, Cable TV, Water, Electricity, all incl. US\$ 580,00 per month. E-mail: bauer.paul@t-online.de

House for rent at Belnem. 2 Bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Furnished or unfurnished. Rent price includes garden-maintenance. Low rent price. Phone 785-9900 or 717-2698

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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



AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **AutoCity Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too.

Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number.

Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BARS

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

CARS AND BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

CASINO

The Coral Casino at the Plaza Resort has it all— Blackjack, Roulette, Caribbean Stud, over 100 slots. Always specials and raffles. Free cab ride from your hotel.

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

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ON and IN the WATER

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

Carib Inn is Bonaire's third oldest Dive Shop, open since 1980, is a 10-room resort tailoring to small-scale resort lovers. Well stocked scuba store, best prices on dive equipment. The place where others take their gear for repair.

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

UNDERWATER VIDEO

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

HOME CARE

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

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit.



RESTAURANTS

Bistro de Paris— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it.

La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.

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

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Bona Dea is Bonaire's newest Caribbean life style shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



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Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



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TOP Supermarket— Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Culti-mara location. Featuring a complete selection including fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.



MADE ON BONAIRE

Semper Kontentu goat cheese. Ask for it at restaurants and look for it in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Mugs available.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

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Volunteer for a Better Bonaire

Bon Doet



Windup at the 2012 Bon Doet

Always wanted to become a volunteer but never knew where to start? Register and become a volunteer for a day by being part of **BON DOET**. On March 15 and 17 the NGO Platform of Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize **BON DOET**, a celebration of the volunteerism of Bonaire.

BON DOET brings social organizations and volunteers like you together to do a chore or a job or an activity together. Everyone on Bonaire is invited to participate in **BON DOET**.

If you have a club or business, your organization gets a chance to present itself during the **BON DOET** days to a larger audience and simultaneously get the opportunity to help our community.

BON DOET takes place on two days; however, you decide whether you want to participate one day, part of a day or two days. This way you can choose what suits you best and it remains fun and feasible. Businesses like to participate on a workday for "team building."

If you want to participate, you can register via telephone, e-mail or their website. You can also send a text message with your name, number and e-mail and they will contact you. If you prefer a personal visit, you are most welcome to come by!

What kind of chores/jobs are there? There are three pages of tasks listed for **BON DOET**! There are chores, for example, to clean the yard at retirement centers, scour the beaches, repair items or plant trees.

Check out planned jobs on http://www.bondoet.com/bondoet/klus_zoeken/

You are also welcome to pass by the office of NGO Platform Bonaire and/or Coffee & van der Hoek BV to look into their "Chores folder" for more information about the jobs.

Contact Information:

Coffee & van der Hoek, Kaya Sabana 5A., T: 717-2834. M: 701-7994. Email: bondoet@cvdhvbv.com

NGO Platform Bonaire, Kaya Grandi 52C, T: 717-2366, 796-2366
ngoplatformbonaire@gmail.com or bondoet2013@gmail.com

A (very) partial list of Jobs and Activities done in the past

Clean up of the cemetery, two days of beach clean up at Lac, painting / repair / improvement and planting in numerous locations, walking, entertain people with limited visibility / blind/ limited hearing at Rum Runners restaurant, Party at Kas di Kuido -New shelves for books, Outside painting of the Sporthall, Outside painting of the building of Oubaas repair / improvement, Make a bolas field, painting / repair / improvement of the field and building. Fence building at the kunuku for parrots, painting / repair / improvement of the Lourdes Grotto, Outside painting of the building of Antriol Avanti, Racks for boats at Kas di Regatta, Football games for youngsters, Mangazina di Rei maintenance-Painting of the Center Tutturutu, repair of the roof for Cinelandia in Rincon, clean-up at Parke Publico and many more.

These are some of the non-profit organizations that get helped: ADRA, STINAPA, FKPD Rincon, Special Olympics, FKPIO, Fundashon Mariadal, Watapana school, Scouting, FKPD Playa, The Echo Foundation, Stichting Project, Cocari, Kas di Arte, Parokia Rincon, Antriol Avanti, BONAL, BSSA, NGO Platform, Mangazina di Rei, Flor di orkidia, We Dare To Care, Federashon Bolas, Strea di Oro, Mi Mes Hofito, Fundashon Nawati, SGB, SV Vitesse, Goldfinch Bolas, Kresh Bon Kwido, Knuki Sur, Saka Man Yuda Nos. Pro Hubentut, Kalor di Hogar, JIWIRI, Villa Antonia, and much more. ■ G.D

The Mystery Gourmet



"Cobb Salad Rum Runners Style" Assorted Lettuce, Fresh Fish, Shrimp, Blue Cheese, Diced Egg, Bacon and Tomato Tossed With a Honey, Lime and Thyme Vinaigrette

RUM RUNNERS AT HABITAT

For many years the Mystery Gourmet and his sensationally spooky spouse have enjoyed the fare at Rum Runner's at Captain Don's Habitat.

The restaurant is located seaside, has an excellent bar, an extensive menu, including salads, fish, seafood, chicken, pork, beef, desserts and is known for having, arguably, the best pizza on the island. Daily specials and occasional buffets are provided, the breakfast bar being a favorite.

Being associated with the Habitat, in

order to serve the hotel guests, the restaurant has extended hours of operation, so, when many other dining sites are closed, Rum Runner's can be counted on for service. Recently, the omnivorous pair enjoyed lunch with family and, later in the month, was treated to dinner by friends at the restaurant.

Both experiences were simply terrific, the ambiance, service, food and beverages being top drawer.

At lunch the foursome enjoyed salad, salmon, chicken and shrimp dishes. The dinner fare for all was a USDA choice rib-eye steak, generously proportioned and grilled exactly to order. The side dishes were excellent. A nice bottle of red wine complimented the beef.

Thus, two fine dining experiences in a single month at Rum Runner's provided what was well worth the time spent by the eerie pair and their family and friends.

■ Story & photo by The Mysterious Gourmet and Spouse

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming Cruise Ships— Source: Harbormaster's Office

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Thursday	7-Mar-13	Noordam	0700-1900	1920	HAL
Wednesday	13-Mar-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	20-Mar-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Thursday	21-Mar-13	Emerald Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
Friday	22-Mar-13	Westerdam	0700-1900	1918	HAL

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Monday presentations: FREE SEMINARS ON REEF FISH IDENTIFICATION, Monday evenings March 11, 18 and 25 at C.I.E.E. 6:30 -7 pm

Introduction to REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation), basic fish id techniques, tools and terminology 7- 8:30 pm

March 11 Second 50 fish (novice level 3, part 1)

March 18 Third 50 fish (novice level 3, part 2)

March 25 Special Bonaire fish

Sessions are led by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White, and are for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling,

Thursday, March 7: 7 - 8 pm CIEE Research Station Bonaire presentation - 'The coral reefs of Bonaire: their health, their management and their future' by Bob Steneck, University of Maine

Sunday, March 10—Clean up Dive, sponsored by Dive Friends, Tel. 717-2929

Thursday, March 14th CMBB Concert, Harold Martina in concert at 8pm at Plaza Resort

March 15th & 16th - BON DOET see page 15

Sunday, March 17—Kaminda di Arte, see page 6

REGULAR EVENTS

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

• **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open hrs 1 - 7 pm, Entrance fees: Salary range from \$0 - \$1500 free.
\$1500 - \$2000: \$25 per month.
\$2000 - \$2500: \$30 per month
\$2500 and up: \$50 per month. Registration forms can be picked up at the playground. Call 786- 4576/795-4050. All candidates must present their last salary slip.

Saturdays

We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar. Weekly Flea market 9am-1pm. All tables are free every Saturdays except for the first Saturday of every month, \$10 per table. Donations of used clothing are welcome.

• **Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm. Second Saturday of the month, 8 am to 12 noon.** 786-6950

• **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.**

• **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. Drop off cast offs at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road. 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*.

Wednesdays

Chez Nous School Restaurant— Multi course dinners-through end of February. \$20, 6-8:30pm. Contact secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org or phone 717-8142.

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

30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire. Bonaire Basics. 786-6416 or info@bonaireyoga.com

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

AI-Anon meetings - every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

Bridge Club - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or 788-2819 or jeroen@telbonet.an

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

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 Martinez 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. De-brot. 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. Wed. 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.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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20 Years of ENT

Dr. Gerald Rach celebrated 20 years of service on Bonaire with a party in the garden of the Centro Medico with friends, colleagues and family on Thursday, January 25.

Dr. Rach, considered one of the best ear, nose and throat specialists in the region, has been coming to Bonaire twice a month from his Head & Neck Center in Curaçao. Over the years he's consulted with hundreds of patients. Making the trek to Bonaire and back every other Thursday, starting with the now defunct ALM, and the subsequent airlines has been quite an adventure. For that the man deserves a medal! Thank you, Dr. Rach. ■ L.D.



Dr. Rach



The team: Flavia Bermudes, Cansar Marchene (hearing aids), Dr. Rach, wife Linda Rach, Maina Gonesh (his assistant in Bonaire and hearing tester in Curaçao))



Kralendijk/Bonaire – On Sunday, February 24, Jong Bonaire organized their sixth Jong Bonaire Fun Walk. Weather conditions were perfect: 188 adults and 24 kids joined the activities. The youngest participant was an eight year old boy, the oldest participant was a 71 year young lady. Walking distance was some 20 kilometers. All participants started at Jong Bonaire, Kralendijk. They left in the direction of Belnem where they split. The walking participants turned left in the direction of the gorgeously situated Kontiki Restaurant as the bikers continued their trip in the direction of the Cargill Salt Company and the slave huts. They all passed the Kontiki, Chaparral and the La Sunrisa Ball Park to finish at Jong Bonaire. The sporty cyclists covered 37 kilometers. All participants received a T-shirt with the Jong Bonaire Fun Walk logo on the front and the Banco di Caribe logo on the back. A bottle of drinking water, fruit and a lunch were also supplied.

Results of this event: (cyclists) **Luigi Eybrechts- 1:16:42; Deangelo Martijn -1:35:10; Sedney Marten- 1:53:27. Walkers: Nazario Alberto- 2:33:18; Hensly de Palm - 2:42:20; Nigel Coffie- 2:19:35.**

Jong Bonaire would like to thank all sponsors of the event: Banco di Caribe, Bonaire Food Group, Bobbejan's restaurant, Latino ice man, Hector Henriques, the Millenium Inn, Nicola, het Rode Kruis. Thanks to all volunteers and participants. It was a great event. Up to the seventh edition of Jong Bonaire's Fun Walk! ■ J@n Brouwer

Bonaire Reporter- March 8-22, 2013

Guest Editorial

My Idol

It was in 1976 that I found myself at the threshold of the Bartlett Music Store in Carmel, California. We are in the first days of a nine-month sabbatical. It is time-off as compensation for myself and my family. A reward for six years of dogged hard work for the company I work for. One is expected to do something fruitful with the time available. Write a book or pursue another academic or spiritual adventure.

As my first publication is almost finished there is room for something else. After years of musical performances on the drums I want to learn to play the baritone saxophone. And I have an idol: It is Gerry Mulligan whose 78 rpm records I have played until the grooves wore out. "Nights at the Turntable" and "Bernie's Tune" with Chet Baker.

The owner of Bartlett Music Store is one Chris Bartlett. He is a character of great individuality, perhaps partly formed by his experiences in Vietnam. He shows me a baritone saxophone which turns out to be 15 lb. contraption with a mouthpiece the size of a cucumber. He thinks it is not necessarily the most appropriate instrument for a beginner, so I leave the store, the proud owner of a beautiful Silverplate Buescher tenor saxophone, a beginner's textbook and a reference for a teacher with Mexican background at the Carmel High School: Mr. Roberto Avila.

From thereon half a year of biweekly lessons ensue. These are skillfully administered, supported by Avila's authority and love for music, as he treats his other, somewhat younger students. And there is endless practicing in a bathroom which has been converted so that my beginner's scores don't torture the rest of the family too much.

Back in The Netherlands I consider myself to be quite an accomplished musician. I cheekily call a teacher of the musical conservatory and am promptly referred to his youngest student, who goes by the name of André. I arrive for my first lesson in my working costume, a sleek dark blue businessman's suit. After some scales he wearily shakes his head. "This won't do. Put that thing away and lie on the floor." I take off my jacket and lie down on the prickly horse hair carpet tiles and await what may come. Suddenly he plants his foot with its sturdy shoe in the center of my chest and bellows: "And now breathe." As I gasp for breath he clears me up on the difference between the technique of the breathing of wind instrument players, from the diaphragm of the chest and my perky chicken's breast.

We become friends and after two years he accompanies me to Bruxelles to finally buy the baritone saxophone I long for. On the way back he recommends a real baritone saxophone specialist as a teacher. It is first-year conservatory student, Henk van Twillert. My idol Gerry Mulligan is coming within reach.

The new music teacher teaches me to properly interpret music. After ample analysis and painful practice the music sheets are removed. "From memory, please, so that you may focus on intonation, accents, cadences and tone." I find it excruciatingly difficult but he is right. "It has to be turned into music by you yourself." After some years we lose contact. We are both preoccupied with our careers. He finishes his conservatory studies and establishes himself as a gifted musician. I pursue my management consultant career, followed by making some sailing voyages and end up in Bonaire in 1998 and indulge in writing books, making music with my Antillean friends, organizing jazz festivals and much more.

Thirty years after my lessons with Henk van Twillert something special happens. It is in our Mega-Jazz radio show (yes, the one with Bernie's Tune as opening melody) I hear the CD of a guest of co-host Henk Roozendaal. It is a beautiful piece of music played by 10 saxophone players, recorded in the church of Spakenburg (NL) and the soloist (who is also the director) is Henk van Twillert! I am dumbfounded, surprised and curious and consult



Henk van Twillert at the Bonaire Jazz Festival

"Google" to learn of his whereabouts. I establish that he is studying and teaching in New York City and that he lives and works in Portugal. We make contact by telephone and a week later there is a reunion at Schiphol Amsterdam Airport. Whilst enjoying a tasteful combo of fish and white wine we make plans for the near future.

Since then I am organizing the concert tours of my teacher of old on and in the vicinity of our islands. Sometimes with a large orchestra, another time with a fado singer, piano player or a quintet of string instruments. And we have become the closest of friends.

Recently Henk has, on my request, sent me two scores by Bach: 'Air' (on a G string) and 'Du bist bei mir' and he spurs me on to try them. I diligently practice. Exciting, Bach!

A month later Henk and his wife Laurinda are guests at our family and vacation house in Friesland (NL) and what I have dreaded unfolds. "Come on, Guus, let's hear those snippets of Bach." After Henk has filtered out the flaws in my playing we pause. When we continue our session he removes the music sheets. "And now from memory." Even though I saw this coming my heart sinks. We take it on line by line, at first with a bit of sheet and then from memory, becoming increasingly beautiful. Thank you, maestro Henk!

A few days later: My son-in-law tells us that my youngest grandchild, 11 year old Rik, wants to take up the saxophone. They have already been to a shop and he is equipped with both an alto saxophone and a teacher in Utrecht (NL). And they will soon stop by. It makes me very happy. The people at the shop had asked Rik whether he had an idol. "For sure" the little fellow said; "My grandfather is my idol!" They came to visit. After a day we could play the scale of 'C' together and a simple children's tune.

Almost flawless, played from memory with feeling and bravado. Upon saying goodbye I had to disappoint my grandson a little: "Grandpa will gladly help you with a few lessons, but you are better off with a with a real saxophone player for an idol. Like Benjamin Herman, Candy Dulfer or your own teacher for instance. They are much better than I am and will live for a longer time to come." Good luck Rik with your beautiful new saxophone. ■

Guus Gerritsen



Pet of the Week

Here's a beautiful dog with a very sad past. "Binck," this Bonairean Doberman was thrown out of a car. Someone witnessed the act, took the license number and reported it to the Animal Welfare and the police. Binck, totally upset and disoriented, was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Just six or seven months old he's been through doggie hell but since he's been in the Shelter and taken care of by the loving and friendly staff and volunteers he's a different dog. He's playful and smart and so very appreciative of his good fortune. He's been checked out by the vet, proclaimed healthy, has had his shots, worming and will be sterilized. In the meantime he's enjoying his new life with his kennel mates. But his real aim is to find a caring owner who will appreciate his fine qualities.



"Binck,"

When we hear stories like this of animal abuse it makes us wonder. The Shelter does everything in its power to make it easy for people to deal with unwanted animals. There is a cage at the Shelter entrance where animals may be dropped off, no questions asked. The cage is checked often so the animal doesn't have to be in there too long. The Shelter offers free sterilization to help keep the cat and dog population down. They have educational programs for children. There is no need to throw an animal out of a car, but we are told it happens more and more often. Why?

You may see Binck and the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Remember, a pet adopted from the Shelter has been "screened" as healthy and social – a proven and known animal! ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

DID YOU KNOW?



Alessandro Falleni photo

That a species of shrimp live inside sea squirts? This association is so strong that the Italian common name for the shrimp is *Gambero dell'ascidia*, or "shrimp of sea squirt." These animals are found in the sub tidal zone off the coast of Islas Baleares in Spain. Each shrimp usually lives alone and returns to the same chamber for shelter.

When these shrimp begin their summer mating season the females of the species stay inside their sea squirt homes while males of the species leave to visit females. Sometimes both male and female shrimp live together in one sea squirt, but it doesn't happen very often. Think about how cramped it would be!

be to live in a cushy sea squirt in the sea. ■

Alexandra Lukasiewicz

Alexandra Lukasiewicz is a senior studying environmental science and marine conservation biology at the Pennsylvania State University. She is currently living and studying at the CIEE research station here in Bonaire.



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What will you do on March 15th and 16th?

On March 15th and 16th 2013 NGO Platform Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize BON DOET, the biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire. Form your own group of family, friends, acquaintances or colleagues to participate together and have a good time. There are many chores and activities listed for BON DOET. Choose what you'd like to do best on our website. We are going for it! Are you?

Register today at bondoet2013@gmail.com, www.bonneton.com or 717-2834

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A BRIGHT COMET?

This month we have a chance to spot what may be the brightest comet seen for some time. Comet Pan-STARRS was discovered some two years ago when it lay between the orbits of Saturn and Jupiter - very dimly. It is named after the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System. It reaches perihelion, when closest to the Sun, on March 10th, well inside the orbit of Mercury. At our latitudes it is likely to be at its best between March 8th to 20th with the 12th to 17th optimum.

Its magnitude is predicted to be -0.2 on March 10th, dimming to +1.3 on the 20th and down to +3.6 by month's end. The azimuth (compass heading) at which it will be seen moves northwards during the month starting at azimuth 260 on the 9th, 270 (west) on the 13th, 280 on the 18th and at 310 degrees azimuth on the 28th. It will be very low above the horizon so you will need to get to a high observing location with an unobstructed view to the west and north-west. It should lie just above a thin crescent Moon on the 12th making, if clear, a wonderful imaging opportunity.

In a less spectacular vein as March opens, the Moon ushers in Saturn as they both rise together late at night. Saturn and Spica, at magnitudes 0.3 and 1.0 respectively, will shine brightly in the southeastern sky in the late evening. Toward the end of the month, on March 28, the Moon will re-enter the scene, positioning itself between the two as it is one day past full phase.

March's Full Moon occurs at 6:27 a.m. Sky Park Time on the 27th, which means that at moonrise on the evenings of both March 26 and 27, the Moon will be more than 99% lit. The mornings after Full Moon, March 28 and 29, you can spot the Moon as it is still setting in the west looking close to full while the Sun has already risen in the east.

Jupiter is still in Taurus positioned near the bull's V-shaped head. March 17 will make for a great photo-op as the Moon interjects itself into the small space between Taurus's head and Jupiter. The giant



Will this be our view of the comet?

planet and our Moon will appear to be about two degrees apart.

The spring equinox occurs on March 20 at 11:02 UT. On many places on the globe on this date, day and night each last for 12 hours. In the Southern Hemisphere, fall begins.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the sky is ruled by the constellation Orion during the first quarter of the year. Containing some of the brighter stars in the sky, it anchors both the Winter Hexagon and Winter Triangle. Its familiar line of three stars that outline Orion's belt makes it one of the easiest constellations to spot.

Last month we discussed how to identify some of the bright stars seen in the winter sky. This month brings more bright stars near the zenith (i.e., the point on the sky directly overhead). Just to the north of Orion and Taurus is the constellation of Auriga, the Charioteer, which has the shape of a pentagon.

Its brightest star is Capella, which ranks 6th in brightness in the night sky. ■

Bob Berman



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

Early March 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Work diligently and you will get ahead this month. Conflicts over joint finances are likely. You can enhance your cash flow if you pick up additional skills. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You may have a problem dealing with elders. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Your determination may make you a little overbearing when dealing with others. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't overindulge in anyway. If you put your mind to it, you could entertain or host a multitude of social events. Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your partner may be reluctant to tell you how they feel. You may be tired of working for someone else. Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your practical approach to life may charm someone who has been observing you. You will communicate easily and should be able to develop new friendships. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. Try not to lend or borrow money or belongings this month. Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

2013 LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. Try looking into new ways to make extra money. Deception is apparent. Younger relatives may seek your advice. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities this month. Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. You should be able to get a lot done. You can make major gains if you talk to your boss about your findings. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) So smile! You may have difficulties with someone close to you. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse. Romance will develop if you get involved in social events that deal with children. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Broaden your horizons and look into programs that will teach you awareness and relaxation. You're best to avoid disputes. You could receive recognition for a job well done. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will find your vitality is lowered. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Changes in your domestic scene are apparent. Take time to listen to children and help them with projects that seem impossible to them. Your lucky day will be Monday. ■



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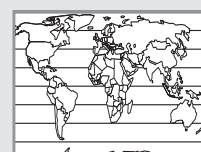
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