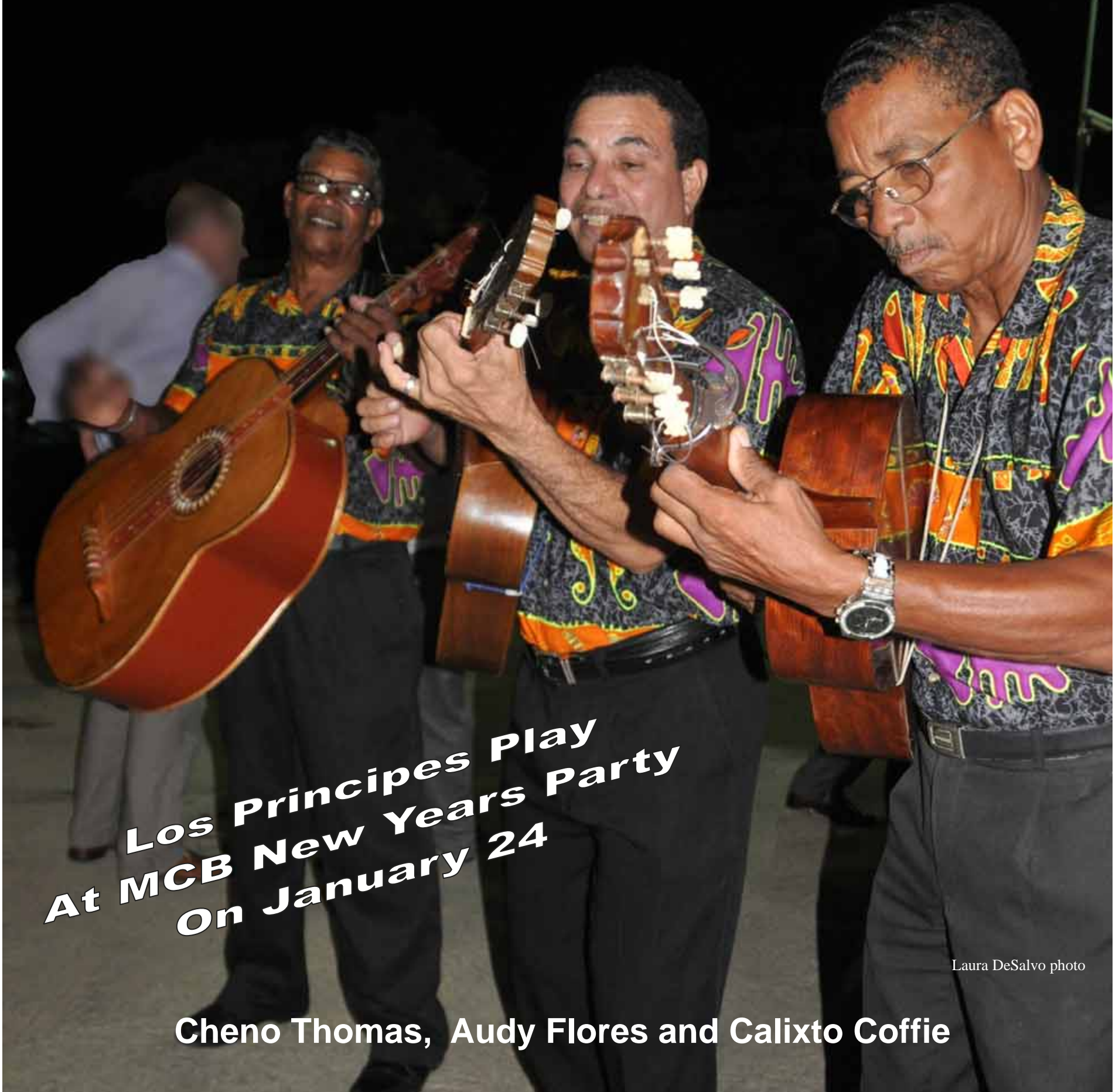


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**BONAIRE** January 27- February 10, 2014 Year 21, Issue 3  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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**Los Principes Play  
At MCB New Years Party  
On January 24**

Laura DeSalvo photo

**Cheno Thomas, Audy Flores and Calixto Coffie**

**Crime  
On  
Bonaire  
Page 6**

**Dual  
Fishing  
Tournament  
Page 7**

**Two  
Mysterious  
Murders  
Page 8**

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BONAIRE The REPORTER



Bonaire Government photo

Air visitors to Bonaire will be greeted by a champion windsurfer. With the unveiling of two large posters at Flamingo airport, Bonaire International Airport (BIA) honored Demenson "Kiri" Thodé, the island's Windsurfing Freestyle 2013 world champion (shown above with his mom, Della). His life-size posters in the arrival hall and meeting area give visitors a hearty welcome. Kiri said he was very happy with the gesture and said he will do his utmost to hold the name of Bonaire high abroad and he hopes to be an example for youth. "Through effort and dedication young people could go far in the world with this sport," he added.

Police authorities have reported that on December 29th at Schiphol airport in Holland, 36 kilos of cocaine were found in the KLM cargo hold following the flight's arrival from Bonaire. Police say that since the flight was in Aruba and Curaçao before coming to Bonaire the drugs could have been placed on board at any one of those three locations. Estimated street value of the drugs was €1.6 million.

Last Wednesday, January 22, a new police station was ceremoniously opened in downtown Rincon. The old station on the outskirts of the village was inconvenient and according to Police Chief Hildegard Buitink, this is a big improvement because the police services will be where most people live.

During the ceremony, the ribbons were symbolically cut by two elderly people and two toddlers from Rincon. Ms. Ines Pourier - Wout (90) and Mr Tavio St. Jago (99) represented the Rincon of the

past and Gerdeney Kroon (3) and Lee-gently Anthony (3) symbolized the future of the village.

After the opening ceremony, attendees left their fingerprints on a special canvas. This canvas will be hung in the police station as a permanent reminder of the opening.

WILLEMSTAD--The *Amigoe* newspaper has reported that **InselAir increased the base rate of its ticket prices by 10% as of January 15.** According to the *Amigoe*, the increase can be attributed to the rising cost of landing fees and includes the services of air traffic that went into effect December 2012.

Last week Bonaire experienced its busiest time of the 2013/2014 Cruise Season with six ships and over 16,000 passengers from P&O Cruises, Celebrity/Royal Caribbean, Aida Cruises, Holland American Line and Princess Cruises ships. Friday, January 24th, was the busiest day with over 6,000 passengers and two cruise ships in port.

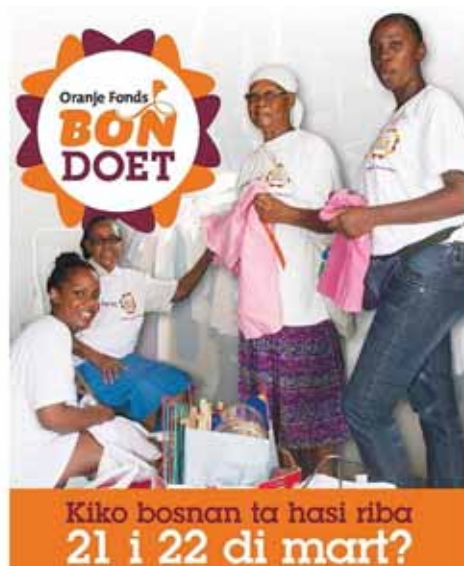
Ethsel Pieternella, Director of Tourism Corporation Bonaire, says, "We are extremely happy to see that our cruise high season is going well. This week alone it will contribute \$1.15 million (*Ed: about \$70/ passenger*) to our economy. As we continue to expand our cruise calls both in the high and low season, we also strive to observe Bonaire's carrying capacity. TCB would like to thank all the operators, taxi drivers and our private sector for providing our cruise passengers with excellent customer service and experience. The organization at the port and the relaxed approach of our island is being greatly enjoyed. Bonaire is at the top of the Caribbean in service to our visitors."

Additional information regarding the Cruise Schedule is available in each *Reporter* edition or on-line at: [www.tourismonbonaire.com](http://www.tourismonbonaire.com) You can also visit the TCB office at Kaya Grandi 2 for a hard copy of the schedule. Questions? Contact TCB at: +599 717 8322.

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> the Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) will put on a concert starting at 8pm in the Assembly Hall at the high school SGB on Kaya Korona.

Marco Bakker, the famous Dutch Opera singer, will perform on Bonaire as part of his jubilee tour to the Dutch Caribbean with the Aruban soprano, Tica Giel, and accompanist, Johnny Kleinmoedig from Curaçao.

he will sing well known arias and duets from *Le Nozze de Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberfloete* and a selection of lieder (a 19th century solo with piano accompaniment). Be sure to



make a reservation. See poster on page 5.

Preparations are underway for **Bon-Doet**, an annual event set for the third week-end of March to complete unfinished chores at social organizations such as painting, clearing or transportation. For each chore the fund will provide money for supplies or equipment.

Many social organizations have already made requests. Social organizations can register the chores for which they seek volunteers and apply for a financial contribution up to January 31. Private persons, schools, businesses and other organizations can also register as volunteers after February 1.

The *Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* (RCN) is cooperating with the *Scholengemeenschap Bonaire* (SGB) in a unique work-study project. **Four students of the SGB/MBO/ICT are going to The Netherlands for about four months for internship/training.** This is done in the context of the completion of their study. When they return, if they have completed the training successfully, they will have a job guarantee on Bonaire from RCN.

Curaçao's new hospital will cost **NAf 17.2 million more than originally estimated**, according to an adjustment in the second supplemental budget of 2013. Government has now budgeted NAf 309.6 million instead of 292.4 million for the entire project, spread out over several years. It's expected that patients from

(Continued on page 3)

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► **Eliomar Frans** was given a plaque of recognition by Island Governor Lydia Emerencia for jumping in the Hillside Apartments swimming pool without hesitation to save a five-year old girl from drowning. According to an eyewitness the little girl was floating face down in the middle of the pool when Eliomer saw her, jumped in and brought her to the side. The child did not appear to be breathing and at first did not respond. An off-duty nurse found the girl to have a pulse and resuscitation efforts continued and she began to breath on her own. She was taken to the hospital and is OK.



**Eliomar** is a "Junior Ranger," the Jong Bonaire / Stinapa youth program. He said what he learned helped him do his heroic deed.

*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*

Bonaire requiring special care could be referred to the new hospital.

► **Former MCB bank director Evert Piar** was appointed Bonaire's member of the Joint Audit Chamber for the Caribbean Netherlands



by the Island Council for a term in office of six years. Piar was sworn in by Island Governor Lydia Emerencia and general secretary Willem Cecilia.

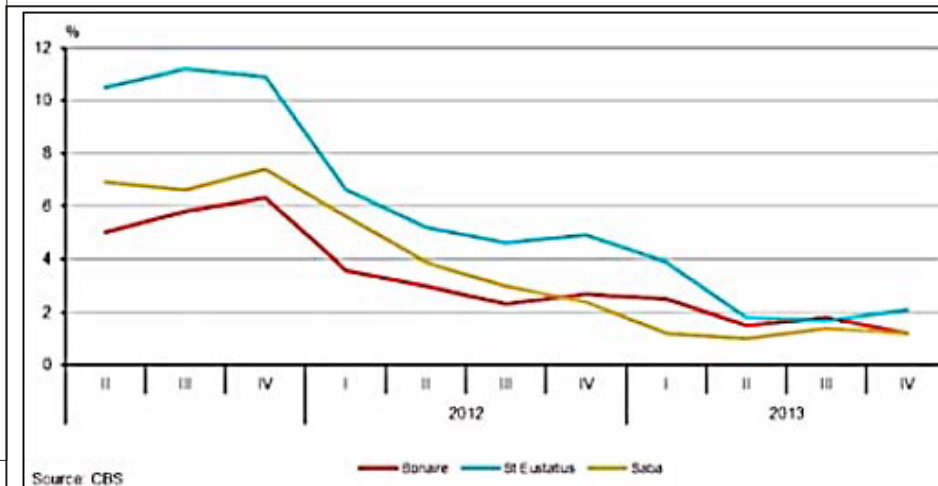
► **Will Bonlab disappear?** That's what the civil servant workers' union, ABVO, thinks. It accused the Dutch Government of wanting to essentially replace the Island Government-owned medical laboratory, Bonlab, by delaying contract-signing with

the Health Insurance Office (ZVK) through the union's secretary for civil servants, Hubert Martis, in a press release. The Dutch want the Mariadal Foundation, which runs the hospital, old-age home and pharmacies, to have the only lab on the island.

According to Martis, the locally-staffed Bonlab "is better than the lab of Mariadal, both in regard to instruments and personnel, without wanting to fault the employees of Mariadal. They are not to blame."

He adds, "The Netherlands is not concerned about the possible loss of jobs and the fact that well-educated personnel with years of experience will become unemployed."

► **STOCKHOLM, Sweden**--The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has reported a further increase in the number of confirmed and probable cases of the **chikungunya virus** on St. Martin, where a related death was reported last week, and other Caribbean islands. Three cases were reported in Aruba last week. There have been **no re-**



► **Bonaire's inflation rate over the fourth quarter of 2013 was 1.2%**, which was considerably below the level recorded in the third quarter of that year. The 1.2%

inflation rate in Saba was also lower than in the third quarter, but the rate in St. Eustatius increased substantially to 2.1%, Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) reported.

ports of sickness from chikungunya on Bonaire... yet.

► **As we go to press the smoke from the fire at the landfill may be suppressed.**

Fire may still be smoldering under the sand and dirt that was heaped on it, but most of the annoying smoke is gone. See page 9 for more.

► **On January 22 free kite lessons for Bonaire youngsters began at the Atlantis kite beach.** The collaboration between the Kite Ride Foundation and Jong Bonaire allows certified kite board instructors to offer free lessons to youngsters. A new sponsor, Peter Lynn Kites from Holland, made this possible. Together with Peter Lynn, the Kite Ride Foundation will create a training program for new champions.

► **There's Bonaire goat cheese again. Hooray!** We tasted the new batch of Aletta's Semper Contentu chess and found it the best we've ever tasted. Find it in the supermarkets and ask for it in the restaurants. Accept no substitute even if it's cheaper-Semper Contentu is made with love.

► **Sonia Home Italian Restaurant** will open for lunch beginning February 1. Lunch is from noon to 2 pm. Try Chef Antonio's Panini, Focaccie, Pasta or Pizza. Dine there or take it away. Happy Hour is from 5 to 6 pm. See their ad on this page.

► **Remember**, dear readers, to tell the stores you shop and the restaurants you frequent to **advertise** in *The Bonaire Reporter*. The ads keep the newspaper "Still Free." ■G.D./L.D.



**Beginning Saturday, February 1 Open for Lunch 12 noon- 2 pm**  
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# On The Island Since... 2003 - Jeroen Roevros

"I lived in Nijmegen, a Dutch city close to the German border. Four times a week I would drive to the coast to go kite surfing until I got fed up with the long drive back and forth. I thought, 'I can move or I could make a real move'..."

I already knew Roan Jaspars (Kite surf boarding Bonaire) during that time. Along with his brother we would give kite surfing lessons. Then Roan left for Bonaire where he started the first kite surfing school. I decided to go for a two week vacation to see him and the moment the plane touched ground I was home! During my vacation I found a house to rent for the paltry sum of 500 guilders – can you believe it? The house came with two dogs, Tico and Jane, who had a great life with me until they died of old age. I would take them to the beach to go kite surfing every day and then they were the cause of my first fine on the island – no dogs on the beach anymore. Well, during this two week vacation I was hired at SGB high school as a physical education teacher, the same job I had in Holland. So, I went back, finished the school year and came this way.

My life was quite simple; I would work in the morning and in the afternoon I would go kite surfing. At night I ate the bar

life.

I still go kite surfing, but less frequently than I used to, mainly because of the kids. Before, I was at the beach every day. I kite surfed at Lac when it was still allowed. That was something! It's a pity they made such a fuss about the kite surfing there, but yeah, it was an extreme sport then. In 2004 I won the Aruba High winds kite surf competition and during that time I became team rider for Naish USA and I still am. I represent the brand here on Bonaire. Over the years the sport has become more accessible because the kites have changed a great deal and are much safer – compared to the earlier days.

Now in the development of the kites it's all about safety. For me it used to be much more exciting, because you couldn't take the pressure off the kite- there was a constant pressure- but now, when you release it, the pressure is immediately gone. It does make it easier and that's why everybody can kite surf nowadays. I can even take my daughters with me on my board.

When I first arrived here, I had only one goal: to become as good as Pieter Zweers 'the flying pharmacist,'" *he grins*. "Did I succeed? Ask Pieter! He's brilliant! I am not so fanatic anymore. Only

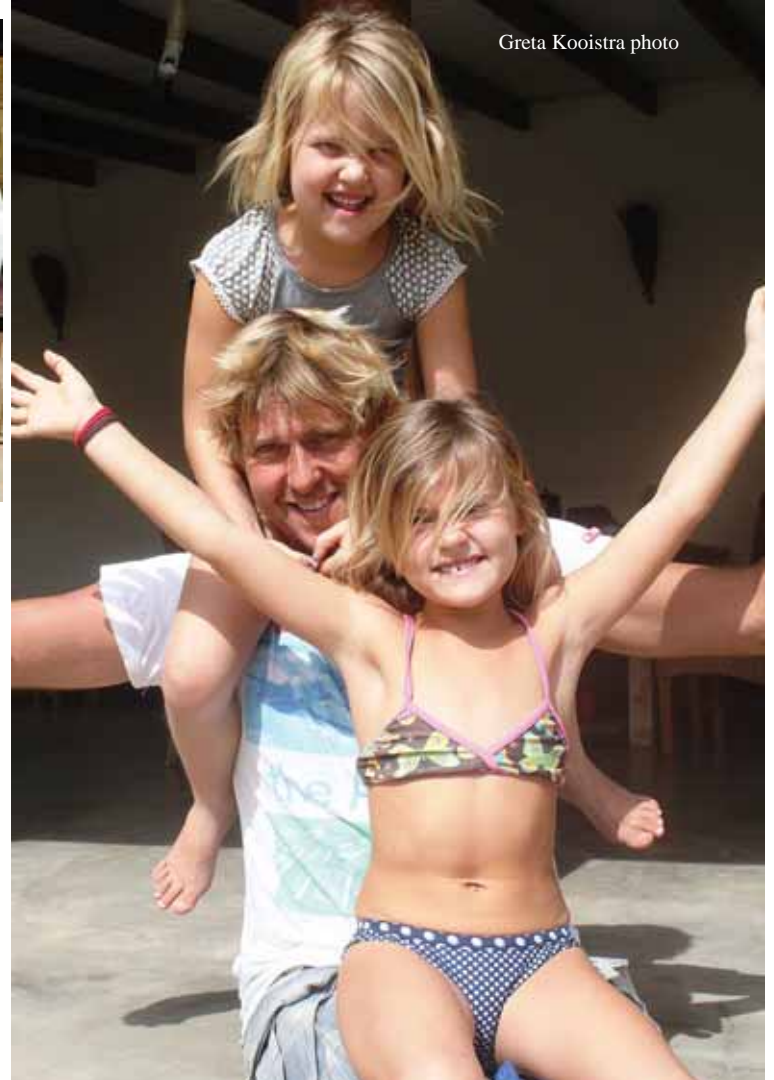


Jeroen's two sides



gymnastics teacher I am also making the schedules for the whole school – a complicated and time-consuming task. But once the job is done, it's very rewarding and that's what everybody is looking for I guess- a little bit of satisfaction.

I'm working at continued voca-



Greta Kooistra photo

Sterre, Jeroen and Bente

**"...life is all about making choices and the fact is that you only know whether you made the right choice *after* it's made. "**

food at City Café, then I would go to sleep. Not a bad life at all! I rented the house for five years, then I bought it. When I heard that my girlfriend was pregnant with twins I decided to expand it... fast! Of course the plan was to go slow and relaxed, to add a room and a garage, but then I tackled it aggressively and the house became three times bigger.

My daughters, Sterre and Bente, were born March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Unfortunately their mother and I are not together anymore. She still works for KLM—that's what she did when I met her – so the children are eight days with me and eight days with her and that's going well. And... I can't think of a better place than Bonaire for a child to grow up. To raise children by yourself can be a challenge now and then, but everything you put into it – you also get back. I've got very sweet children who never fight, ha! ha! But I love them more than anything; they are the love of my

when there is lots of wind or big waves, or for instance a wind reversal – then the adrenaline rushes through my body.

Nowadays I do other things. I play music - the guitar, harmonica or the piano- and I sing. I used to play once a week at City Café, which was a bit too much of a good thing and Bonaire is too small for that – although miraculously people kept coming. Now I'm having a jam session once every five weeks at Little Havana and also a gig at Jibe City on the beach next to the bar. That's a really nice evening. I started playing for about 20 people on the beach, on my own, and now it has become a very cool musical evening involving other musicians and the public. I can fill it in the way I want it and I am trying to keep it varied. It's a real Bonairean night - totally relaxed, feet in the sand, a drink and lots of music.

I am still working at SGB high school and next to my job as a

tional secondary education – VMBO – and at the moment a lot of money from Holland is being invested and therefore, the materials are much better. However, everything starts with a good education and it's the parents and educators who need to work on that.

To raise and educate a child is time consuming – it costs time. Nowadays people have to make more money than before to survive and all the hours they spend working, they cannot spend in raising their children. The result is that children are having difficulties in accepting authority. You spend a lot of energy on entering into and resolving conflicts and all that energy is wasted and with it time and money..."

*He smiles*. "The older you get, the bigger the problems. Well, it sounds a bit negative, but what I mean is that life is all about making choices and the fact is that you only know whether you

made the right choice **after** it's made. When you live alone or with a partner it's easy to live by the day and make the best of every day. But when you have children it becomes more difficult because every day you also make choices for them.

I will stay here for the coming years, but I'm getting older and if I still want a job in Holland in physical education, I shouldn't wait too long. The only reason I would leave would be if it was in the best interests of my children. But then, I will also come back to grow old here because I feel this is a super island to live when you're old.

The only thing I feel you miss here sometimes is that you don't have a history with people. Everybody I know here, I only know for 10 years and in Holland for instance I have histories with people that go back a lifetime. I would like my children to have that too, and also, they should know there is more to the world than Bonaire.

The children go to Holland regularly. I didn't go that often but now I would like to travel a bit more. I definitely want to go to South Africa because of the kite surfing and I'm planning to go to Maui in May because a friend of mine, Sky Solbach – who has lived here too – is getting married there and I am invited.

What I love about Bonaire is

the outdoor life and not that many rules – although that is changing rapidly and I am questioning if all these rules and regulations are applicable to Bonaire – such a relatively small island with few inhabitants. Of course there should be rules, but look at the place first. I love that it's small. Everything you do can be done in 10 minutes, little time is lost by commuting. You're also not so affected by the media or advertising. I don't even have a television. At night, when the children have gone to bed I don't make it that late either, after a long day outdoors I'm done. Sometimes I invite people over for dinner and I cook, sometimes I play a little music, sometimes I go out to eat.

I think when you're 20 and a bachelor it's fun here, but for me, with children, it's different. You're a bit more stuck and you know everybody and you meet the same people over and over again and if you're not attracted to any of them – that's the end of the story. That can be difficult." *He grins* "But let me tell you, in spite of all that Bonaire has been the best choice I've ever made!" ■

*Greta Kooistra*



# Word on the Street

**H**ave you been approached by Bonaire's newest businessman- The Panhandler?



He hangs out in the parking lot of van den Tweel supermarket and approaches affluent-looking shoppers returning to their cars. He's well-dressed, Dutch and English speaking and courteous when he asks for money for yoghurt or a drink. He said he can't find a job... perhaps it's because he's thought one up for himself. Store management seem at a loss of what to do. **Suggestion: see if he wants a job in the market.**

• THE HAGUE--Members of the Permanent Committee for Kingdom Relations of the Dutch Parliament expressed **concern about the purchasing power and the high consumer prices in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.** They presented the questions they had and those they gathered on their recent trip to the islands to the Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations. Among other things they asked about: The possibilities for the Dutch and the local governments to intervene and to lower the price of transport of goods to the islands.

Whether expanding the list of tax-free goods was a possibility like adding all goods and food items in the supermarkets, to expand the list with essential consumer goods, like fridges, stoves, washing machines, TVs and furniture. How much tax was collected on imported goods per island and what the cost was to collect them

Issues like medical evacuation and the postal services

The status of the development plans that the islands have submitted to the Dutch Government;

Which projects would start in 2014/2015. How would the local population be involved in the evaluations in 2014 and 2015 of the public entity status of the islands that was implemented on 10/10/10

What would be the role of the Island Council and the people in the drafting of a profile for the new Kingdom Government Representative

(*Rijksvertegenwoordiger*). The current Representative Wilbert Stolte will resign on May 1 this year after numerous complaints about his performance.

**There were no questions about cows.**

• Cruise ship companies have asked local government officials to exercise better control over the boats that are taking cruise ship passengers to Klein Bonaire. **Their complaints center on lack of life jackets for passengers and overcrowding of the boats.**

• **For the second time in six months a search of a Sabadeco home resulted in the discovery of firearms.** On January 22, following a tip they received, local police executed a search warrant on a house in Sabadeco. The search resulted in the discovery of two firearms and a European Dutch national was arrested. Police statistics (see story on page 6) indicate that there are fewer break-ins in SABEDECOS than other neighborhoods. **Could it be that the burglars know they might be met by bullets?**

• A shortage of the large Curoil propane tanks in the last few weeks resulted in **temporary closings of several restaurants** because they ran out of cooking fuel. Some people got very "creative" about the problem. One restaurateur had three full tanks one day, the next morning he found two of his full tanks had been "replaced" with empty ones.

• THE HAGUE--**The Dutch cabinet is planning to make convicted criminals pay towards the cost of the investigation into their crimes as well as a fee for each day they spend in jail.** The Ministry of Security and Justice said in a statement it is to introduce a fee of €16 a day for prisoners, people in psychiatric prison and the parents of juveniles in detention.

Prisoners and parents would be liable to pay the charge for a maximum of two years, amounting to €1,680.

At the same time, the Ministry is planning to make convicted criminals pay

towards the cost of the investigation into their crime and the court costs. . . The draft legislation was sent out for consultation on Monday. The measure is aimed at raising €65 million a year. **Will prisoners on Bonaire have to pay in dollars?** It would be a nice boost to Bonaire's Prison Tourism.

• The number of secondary schools in the Netherlands **offering Chinese as a subject** is set to more than double next year. Currently 35 schools offer classes in Chinese, but more than 40 other schools have plans to do so next academic year. Students will be able to take final exams in the Chinese language from 2015. **With all the Chinese people and markets on Bonaire why not begin teaching it here?**


• **Bula Bonchi's "Word on the Street" is a mix of local confirmed news, "rumors" and "gossip."** Definition: **rumor** noun: **1.** a currently circulating story or report of uncertain or doubtful truth. Definition: **gossip** noun: **1.** casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true.

• With that being said, it turns out that last issue's "rumor" regarding restaurants **It Rains Fishes** and **Sebastian's** being up for sale turns out to be just that - rumor! Owners of both restaurants assured Bula that they are NOT for sale. ■  
*Bula Bonchi*




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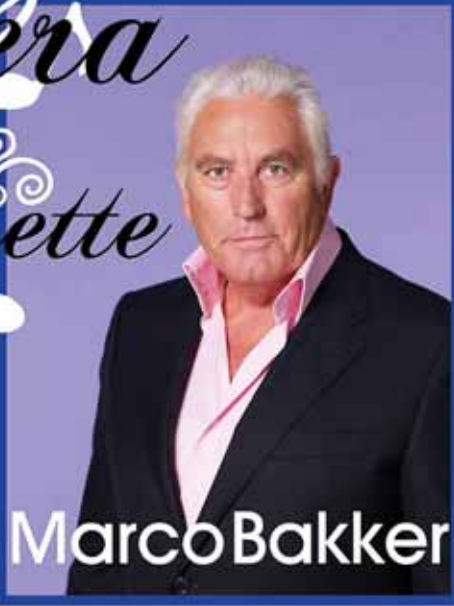
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# Crime On Bonaire

Last week Hildegard Buitink, the BES Islands' Police Chief presented a review of crime on Bonaire for the years 2011-2013. Several of the graphics presented are reproduced at the right.

The statistics show that overall crime in 2013 decreased compared to 2012 and 2011. The number of property crimes dropped compared to the previous two years, but the number of violent crimes showed a slight rise. Over a third of the number of cases investigated by the police (KPCN) in 2013 were resolved. A total of 314 cases were investigated; 358 suspects were sent to the Public Prosecutor. There was an increase of 50 suspects indicted as compared to 2012.

Because of the high number of *atrakos* (robbery/ extortion) in the first half of 2013, an *atrako* team was established. In 2013, there were 51 *atrakos*.

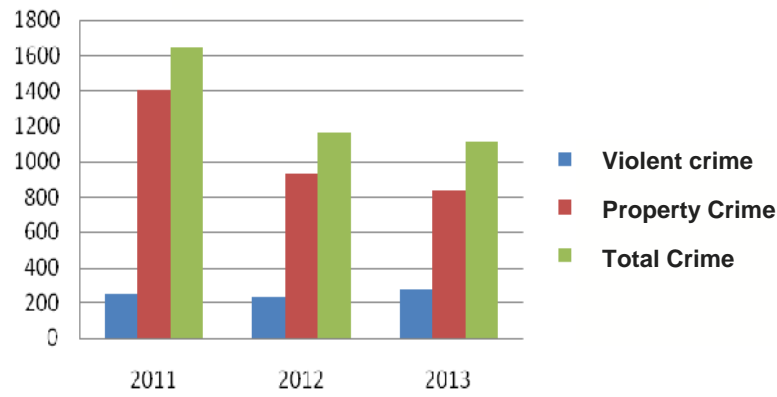
A case is considered solved when a final police file naming one or more suspects is submitted to the Public Prosecution Service (OM). This does not mean that there is a conviction.

In general, the resolution rate for violent crimes is relatively high and relatively low for property crimes. Reasons for this include the lack of witnesses and forensic evidence in many instances. Top neighborhoods for break-ins were Playa (Kralendijk), Playa Pabou and Belnem. Better home security in other wealthy neighborhoods probably reduced trouble there, said police.

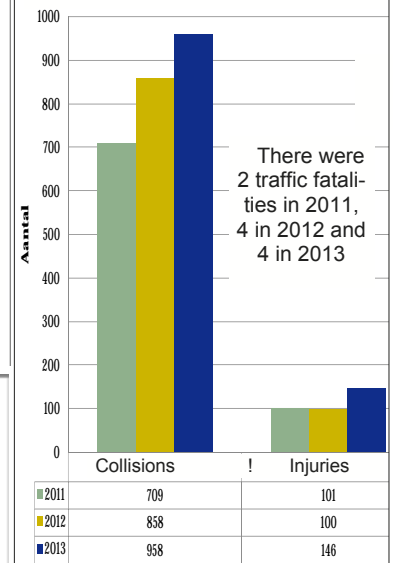
The number of cases with suspects under 18 (61) significantly increased compared to 2012 (43) and 2011 (28). Youth crime peaks around holidays. Bonaire has few activities for young people at holiday time. Youth offenses range from mischief to *atrakos*. Most are minor offenses, such as vandalism and fights. The Youth Crime chart is not presented in this article. Much more detail and charts relating to criminal activities were presented and are available from the police information service.

There has been a significant improvement in the reporting of crimes over the last year. Almost every day there is a police report released in Dutch, Papiamentu and when appropriate, in English. ■ G.D.

Recorded Crime Trend 2011-2013



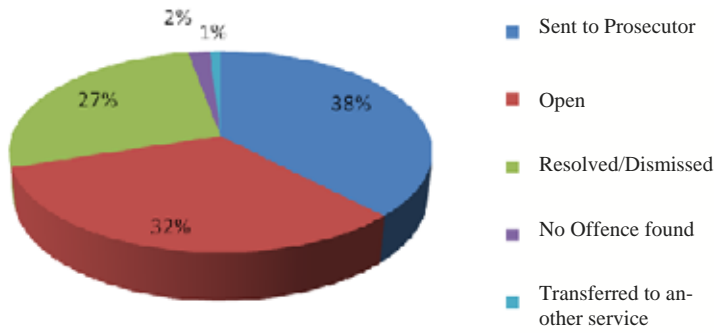
Traffic Accidents 2011-2013



Fatalities: 2 in 2011, 4 in 2012 and 4 in 2013

The statistics did not include the recent killings. See page 8

Results of 2013 Police Investigations



Property Crime Types 2011-2013

Year	House Thefts	Business Thefts	Vehicle Thefts	Scooter Thefts	Other Thefts
2011	215	209	84	Not Reported separately	894
2012	208	78	77	49	568
2013	200	67	87	49	436

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# 26th Bonaire International & Local Fishing Tournament



*A Jumping Marlin*

Besides the wonderful weather and fish this year there were two novelties for the 26th Bonaire International & Local Fishing Tournament: a camera crew filming a reality show about fishing and the fishermen who make fishing their livelihood and an all-woman fishing team.

The January 23-25 combined International & Local Fishing Tournament was again really two events split between a local fishing tournament and an international billfish tournament.

In the local fishing contest, the goal is to catch as many kilos of fish as possible and the local fisherman with the most kilos caught wins. The rules are relatively loose, with many types of gear, tackle, and bait allowed, as long as the fish is caught with line and hook. The fish species is not of real importance either; it is

the kilos that count. And the fish are all for local consumption.

The International Billfish Tournament is far more regulated. Bait, gear and tackle are precisely defined. For example, fishermen, two to four per participating boat, can only use one rod and reel, with 50-pound test lines or less only. The boat usually is crewed by a captain and a deckhand, most often very experienced fishermen themselves. When a fish strikes on a particular rod and reel, the gear can only be handled by the fisherman to whom the rod was assigned. The strike must then be called in to a control center, which gives the strike a code. From the strike to getting the fish to the boat, no assistance is allowed whatsoever, and thus it is up to the skill of the fisherman and the captain to realize a successful catch. The action must be closely monitored, and proof of the catch is precisely photographed.

Gone are the days of Ernest Hemingway, when every catch of the beautiful, large and powerful fish was hauled ashore, to be put on display before a public in awe, with the proud fishermen standing beside their bleeding catch. These days, all billfish are released, often tagged for study purposes. Even the hooks that are used, are specially designed, not only to cause as little damage to the fish as possible when hooked, but even when the line breaks, the hook will release itself when pressure is no longer applied. Over the years most of the fishermen who participate in billfish tournaments have become fierce and passionate protectors of the species and the environment they live in: the beautiful sea. Please see, for example, [www.billfish.org](http://www.billfish.org) to learn more about the efforts to preserve these beautiful fish.

And so, in the end not a single billfish was landed, all billfish were successfully released, no other species of fish was caught, all testimony to the finely tuned skill of the participants. The onshore public is now entertained with a slide show of the fishing action at sea and three days of



Photo by Patrick Hulsker

*All-girl billfish team aboard The Grand Rebel from Wannadive: Debbie Berkers, Tamara Snelder, Roos Nagtegaal and Jacqueline Otter*

good old partying, thanks to the efforts and work of the organizers. We are looking forward to next year, meeting all fishermen again dockside, talking fish, discussing bait and techniques, and casting off our boats under glorious sunrises for another great day at sea. Tournament results are described in the story below.

In the evenings there was a cozy "festival atmosphere" with nightly live music and DJs. It Rains Fishes provided a delicious buffet dinner every night and a well-stocked and sorted bar. Also there were slide and video showings of the fishing activities of the day.

On Saturday, January 25, there were several water events organized downtown. ■ *Bart Snelder*

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Photo by Marion

*The big one!?*

Bonaire, Polar and Coca Cola; It Rains Fishes; Spice Beach Club; Zanzibar; Akkermans Auto Supplies; Budget Marine; Caribbean Laundry and the Bonaire Marine Center. ■

## Results

The entire Tournament was a great success with 24 boats in the International Catch and Release event and 19 in the local boat competition. Three boats came from Aruba, 13 from Curaçao, one from Venezuela. Seven sports fishermen and 19 food-fishing boats were from Bonaire. Customs and Immigration even set up a booth so that all of the foreign boats could clear in and out directly at the event.

The weather was perfect and the fish were certainly cooperating during this event.

This year the Billfish fishermen kept the tournament control very busy with 28 strikes over the two days. There were 12 successful releases on Friday and seven more on Saturday. Unfortunately, the rest got away before making it all the way back to the boat. Of these, 15 were Blue Marlin and four were White Marlin.

The first angler to secure a prize was on *Just Us* with the first release on Friday by Sergie Boer at 08:23 for which got him a cash prize of \$500. On Saturday, Maikel Ser-



*The Trophies*

berie on *Meal Ticket* made a very fast job of it, with the first release already at 07:52 to also win \$500.

In the main event, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize with total of 600 points with 2 Blues was won by *Chacaro* from Curaçao, both caught by Clifford Pietersz on Saturday. They won a beautiful trophy along with \$2,000 cash.

Second prize of \$3,500 and another beautiful trophy goes to *Just Us* with 900 points releasing 2 Blue Marlin and 1 White Marlin on Friday caught by Sergie Boer and Jens van der Lubbe and 1 White Marlin on Saturday also caught by Jens.

The first prize of \$6,000 with a total of 1,200 points with four Blue Marlin goes to *Picante* from Curaçao. Barry da Brew de

(Continued on page 9)



*The smallest boat and overall Local Tournament winner, Speed.*

# Clean Power For Bonaire

Interest and action to preserve Bonaire's natural environment was in the forefront this month. On Friday, January 17th, Henk Rogers, the head of the Blue Planet Foundation, spoke about his mission to reduce and eventually eliminate our planet's dependence on fossil fuels. He was invited to be the keynote speaker at the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the University of Curaçao (formerly University of Netherlands Antilles) earlier that week. In relation to this he also travelled to Aruba and Bonaire to speak about sustainable energy and good practices on our islands and the islands of Hawaii, where he resides, during a meeting with representatives of environmental organizations in the morning and a lecture for the general public in the evening.

Rogers discussed his ideas about learning from each other and cooperating when it comes to reducing the use of fossil fuels on small islands. He shared the activities that Blue Planet has already organized on the islands of Hawaii, such as producing an annual energy report card that presents an assessment of Hawaii's progress toward energy independence with 100% clean energy. In 2013 Hawaii got a C-. Anyone interested to commit themselves to this mission on Bonaire was invited to get in touch with the Blue Planet Foundation if they need ideas or support. ■ *Johannetta Gordijn*

Earlier Bonaire's Water and Energy company (WEB) announced a feasibility study to producing electricity from solar power. Upon its conclusion, the first phase of a solar pilot project at the former Radio Netherlands transmitter site in Plantation Colombia will begin with a completion target of end of the second quarter.

"This project will have priority with WEB in cooperation with ContourGlobal (the island's

sole electricity producer), the public housing foundation (Fundashon Cas Bonairiano) and be under the management of Caribbean Energies Group (CEG)," a press release stated. CEG is a Seattle Washington, USA, certified project management consulting group, providing expertise project/program planning for Solar Design/Build/Operate/Maintain Systems among other things.

If the expected results are achieved, WEB will consider construction of a "Solar Garden" (a solar panel park) to compliment the island's existing fossil and wind power sources.

"For WEB," continued the press release, "solidarity within the community is an important issue in its considerations: Centrally generated solar energy benefiting all Bonaire residents as an alternative to decentralized (private) production, benefiting only a happy few on an island with just about 17,000 people!"

At the same time the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs in The Hague is working in collaboration with WEB and other stakeholders in Bonaire on new regulations regarding the production and distribution of electricity. This will be stipulated in a "Regulating Framework Electricity Supply Caribbean Netherlands" law expected to go into force on January 1, 2015.

Critics of the proposal are concerned that the law is being drafted by the Netherlands rather than the island government, the consultants are from the US who may be unfamiliar with unique Bonaire situations and that private solar power systems discouraged and penalized under the proposed plan. ■ *Press release/ G.D.*



# Two Murders

Is Curaçao violence overflowing to Bonaire?

In the early morning hours of Friday, January 24, two dead bodies were discovered in widely separated parts of Bonaire—one off the road to Rincon near Kunuku Arawak, the other behind a water-catchment dam near the SGB High School in Kralendijk.



Forensic investigation of the burnt car

While the police have released few details of their investigation, social media and the Papiamentu language newspapers speculated on aspects of the case. The *Extra* newspaper listed the names of the two: Francis Lourens (27) and "T.S." The men knew each other and were seen together often on Bonaire. Both were from Curaçao. Rumors are that they were prison cellmates. The two bodies were discovered within less than two hours of each other. The killings allegedly were revenge for a past family murder in Curaçao.

Police did say that in both cases the deaths were the result of criminal acts but would not say that the cases are connected. An anonymous source said the deaths were grisly.

Large areas around the discovery sites were cordoned off and the main road to Rincon closed. Cruise ship and other visitors on island tours were constrained to the southern half of Bonaire

The case has the highest police priority. The crime-fighting triumvirate composed of Governor Lydia Emerencia, Chief Prosecutor David van Delft, and Hildegard Buitink Chief of Police have pledged the available resources of their organizations to the investigation. Additionally, the RST (Dutch Detectives Bureau), the Border Police- Kmar, the Coast Guard and Customs are cooperating.

Police are asking for tips. Call via the emergency number 911, the regular police phone numbers 715-8000 or 717-8000 or the anonymous tip line: at 717-7251. ■ *Bula Bonchi/G.D.*

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### No Cows

Dear Editor:

One would think and at least hope that someone from the Dutch Parliament would have a modicum of intelligence. One would expect that person to understand about the area he is visiting ("Where are the Cows?" comment from Dutch Parliamentarian André Bosman). If Mr. Bosman wants cows here, he can personally finance that business and pay for the feed necessary and pay for the high water costs. If Mr. Bosman would like to see more vegetables grown here, he can personally finance that business and pay for the high cost of water and costs for bringing in fertilizers. Does he know Bonaire's soil is not so great for farming as has been shown many times? How many vegetable businesses have been an overwhelming success? Can he really expect Bonaire to feed 15,000 plus people?

Perhaps a better answer would be to have a government here who can manage money better for all the people on Bonaire and not for themselves. Maybe taxes and other costs would drop making more income for Bonaire and not for individuals who claim to govern.

*Overtaxed resident*



### SCOOTER ANTICS

Dear Editor:

In the last edition of *The Reporter Word on the Street* reported two scooter deaths. This is of course sad but when I watch how some of these scooter users ride these, I suspect there will be more. I have had scooters pass me on the right side by driving up over the sidewalks. Weave/squeeze in and out of traffic to pass. Drive way too fast. Texting while driving scooters. The list goes on. I am not sure a helmet will change any of that or help in a lot of cases.



*Wasteland: Pall of smoke over landfill area*

### LANDFILL TERROR (PART 2)

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to give an update about the fire at the landfill that started on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> I went to the landfill to see for myself what actually had been gone up in smoke. The fire had raged at the storage section of cast off freezers, fridges, air conditioners and so on. So you can imagine what hazardous fumes came off.

Underneath this section is the older part of the landfill where all kinds of waste had been dumped together in the past ( a mix of all kind of wastes from organic to chemical etc). So after the household appliances went up in smoke the underground layers started to burn and smolder. So although you didn't see flames since the 16<sup>th</sup> a lot of smoke is still coming out of this layer of soil that is the size of a soccer field ( when I write this it is the 23rd ).

For the last week or so SELIBON has been bringing in truckloads of diabaas that is piled up near the smoldering section, so as soon as possible they will probably cover the area. (See *Editor's note* at end)

Maybe not so many people were affected directly from the clouds of smoke, but for sure all these hazardous gases have polluted and poisoned parts of the island and its people. I even spoke with someone who lives at Sabadeco who had smelled the fire.

That a small fire is allowed to grow to such proportions proves that Bonaire is still not capable of coping with such matters. Maybe it is lack of expertise, maybe lack of responsibility or SELIBON and the fire department do not have access to the right equipment.

In July 2011 there was also a big fire at the landfill and then the big pile of car wreckages went up in smoke. A fire that was also allowed to go on for days.

And then of course we had the big fire at Bopec in September 2010.

So Bonaire has had its part in polluting the world for sure.

I hope that authorities here on Bonaire and the Ministry of Environment in Holland (neither have responded to letters that I sent them...) begin to tighten rules on safety and environment protection if they really care about Bonaire and Bonaire's name as an "eco" destination for tourists.

Please let's keep it Bonaire instead of "Badaire" if you care!

*Jella van Berkum*

*Editor's note:* At the end of last week Governor Emerencia directed that a special group of workers be assigned to fight the landfill fire under the coordination of the Fire Department and SELIBON. They used sand and water. All indications are that this is at least partially effective, even with the strong wind that has been a problem and has been spreading smoke in the neighborhoods.

It must be mentioned that the work to put out the fire might produce more smoke while it is underway. The fire area will be buried under a mound of dirt. Review is needed on how to fight the fire without harming people and the environment and how to prevent such fires in the future. Citizens were asked to call 911 if the smoke became overwhelming.



*Landfill sunset*

*Jella van Berkum photos*

### Fishing Tournament (Continued from page 7)

Paulo caught 2 and Ruben Arends and Luis Dusa each brought in 1.

The Local Fishing Boat class had a record attendance of 19 boats. Seven of these boats returned with more than the required 10 kg. of fish to qualify for a prize. The rest returned to report a great day of fishing. There were six boats in the category of less than 17 feet, and 13 boats that were 17 feet and over.

The fishermen were required to personally sign out at the headquarters no earlier than 11pm and were allowed to leave any time after midnight to fish. Some had to travel half-way round the island to return their catch to the pier by 2 pm at the Club Nautico pier, but it was worth their while. In this tournament the fishermen remain the owner of the fish. Most fish were sold on the spot, at the pier.

Vincent Seket and his wife on *Orca* returned with one fish, but it weighed in at 15 kg and earned them the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the large boat category for a prize of \$200. It is great to see women out there fishing as well. Second place went to *Rainbow Runner* owned by Enfri Thomas with 21 fish totaling 26.5 kg. Appropriate to his boat name, he was the only one to bring in a rainbow runner fish. Solomon Sherwin Theodora on *Princes Thajise* with 6 fish topped the scales with 39 kg for the \$500 first prize.

In the smaller boat category, only two returned to the scales. Second place of \$300 went to Cado Soliano on *Trupial*, the first of the local boats to return to the pier, with eight fish weighing in at 19.5 kg. In years past, the local boats complained that it was not fair for the small boats to have to compete against the much larger boats, so the event was divided into two categories. In this event, one of the smallest boats of all, not only won the category and had the most weight of fish, the criteria for winning, but also the most total fish, beating out the big boats with 32 fish totaling 52 kg. Edward Janga on *Speed* won \$500 for first place.

You can find more pictures on website <http://www.bonairefishingtournaments.com/> ■ *Story and photos by Pam Werdath-Tietel*

# Farewell Jack

During our lifetime we meet people who are not celebrities, but whose accomplishments positively change our lives and the lives of others. Jack Chalk (59), who passed away Thursday, January 16, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee, after a long illness, was one of them. He added a lot of good things to the Bonaire we know today by his hard work, willingness to lead and get involved with the island.

To say he was a man of contrasts would be an understatement. He was simultaneously a Harvard lecturer and motorcycle "gang" leader; an explorer of coral reefs for SCUBA divers and the head of an organization chartered to protect reefs; a hard-assed boss and aspiring musician. To know him was to like and respect him.

After high school Jack served for 15 years in the US Army's Special Forces, the Green Berets, as a medic. It was hard training that included jumping out of a helicopter into the sea then continuing underwater to complete the mission. Perhaps it gave him a taste for SCUBA diving. After discharge, while working as a member of an ambulance rescue squad in Texas, his unit got a call to help at the scene of a shooting. A deranged sniper was shooting people on the street below. Seeing the victims lying wounded on the



pavement, Jack retrieved one after another, under fire, and brought them to safety. For that he received a Citation from the President of the US.

His Bonaire life began with a 1988 visit to Captain Don's Habitat. The Captain offered him the job as dive manager at his resort. Within a few months he started running Habitat's dive shop and over the years rose to the position of General Manager. But his job was just a springboard for what he did both for Bonaire and for the world beyond it.

He built up the diving operation at Habitat, was an original member of the BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) Board of Directors, served on CURO (Council of Underwater Dive Operators) concerned himself with improving the Recompression Chamber and other aspects of his diving. He was a major force in the island's hotel industry and served on innumerable community and government committees. He was a guiding force that built the Bonaire Marine Park from a "paper tiger" into the formidable conservation organization it is



Moogie and Jack-Entertainers

today with park rangers, a fleet of trucks and boats, a mooring system and educational program. For many years he served as president of the island's environmental agency, STINAPA, and continued as adviser to the Bonaire Marine Park. But his involvement went far beyond what was work-related.

Jack was key in making the all-expense-paid visit of the Wounded Warriors, the support organization for disabled US servicemen and women, an annual Bonaire event. He was a recipient of the ACCOLADE conservation award and the BONHATA Award for Leadership. Beginning in January 1995 he authored nu-



All dressed up with Mama Smile

merous articles for *The Bonaire Reporter's* predecessor, *Port Call*, under the title *The Pirate's Pen*. (read an original 1995 *Pirate's Pen* column on page 17)

He also engaged divers and environmentalists the world over, encouraging them to admire and protect the world's coral reefs. Beyond Bonaire. Jack was the Founding Chairman of the Philippe Cousteau Foundation and Earthecho International. He was a member of the elite Boston Sea Rovers, a dedicated supporter of their Marine Careers Education Program.

At Harvard University he was commended for his work with their Sustain-

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)



As a dive shop manager he informed and entertained with the divers' orientation

ability and Environmental Management Program where he was a guest lecturer and adviser to students working on ocean issues. He received the Dr. Ruth D. Turner Award (Harvard) for his decades of halcyon work to promote strong ocean stewardship.

He immersed himself in business and environmental issues totally... until he discovered motorcycles, Harley Davidsons in particular, about a decade ago. The bikes became his passion and Jack and the motorcycle clubs he was part of became a fixture at Bonaire parades and events serving as escorts. The staff at Habitat and his "Iron Order" motorcycle club were Jack's extended family. There was deep mutual respect and love. They had a lot of fun together both with each other and the hundreds of Habitat's 'regulars', guests that kept on coming back again and again, because of Jack's cama-

raderie, friendship and dedication.

But beyond the accomplishment and awards, Jack was always THERE... in medical emergencies, for advice to government officials, for his fellow hotel operators, for his staff, for his many friends and even for some who weren't. His support and wisdom helped them all. Through all this service he was fun; he partied, smoked and exhausted himself over and over, which took its toll.

About three years ago he had a battle with throat cancer and beat it. But his lifestyle and the cancer treatment led to other complications. Additionally his personal life took a painful turn. Some of his friends said it was the beginning of his final decline

His buddies rallied around and supported Jack as his health failed. But there was a bright spot. At his 45<sup>th</sup> class reun-



The Iron Order Motorcycle Gang were known for their volunteer good works

ion in September 2012 he re-met Jenny Choate, a high school classmate. They liked each other back then. It wasn't until March 2013 that Jenny discovered he wasn't married, and then their relationship began to blossom and grow again. As Jenny wrote, "Love came quickly for us and I will never regret one second... thanking God for the ... family that Jack introduced me to and brought into my life ... for the love we shared and for the time we had together."

Jack left Bonaire last August for ad-

vanced medical treatment in Tennessee where he was cared for by Jenny Choate and his son Chris, who is Assistant Fire Chief there. His health had been improving, but recently he had a serious setback and was hospitalized in critical condition. He passed away in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

(Continued on page 17)

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# Scooter Theft and Crime Prevention

On Wednesday, January 25th, the Police Department of the Dutch Caribbean held a press conference (see page 6). Chief of Police Hildgard Buitink declared the theft of motor scooters was now registered separately from other robberies. Registration of thefts is one subject; registration of vehicles is another item.



Scooter "bones"

It may be that a lot of vehicles are rolling around on our island without legal license plates, up-to-date tax stickers, valid insurance papers and a valid chassis or frame number. Cars and scooters are just taken away and quickly dismantled before they are dumped or set on fire.

Two weeks ago we drove around to admire the beauty of Bonaire and on the left hand side of the unpaved road leading to Seru Suit we found a huge and almost unspoiled cave, some 10 meters deep and at least 20 meters wide. On the bottom of the cave: a car wreck.

It does not take a whole day exploring the dirt roads of our island to discover more than 10 completely dismantled motor scooters.

Along Kaya Aruaco, the unpaved road between Hato and Nawati, I found, not far from two car wrecks, a trio of scooter frames, enjoying their last resting place on a dumped mattress. All VIN- or identification-numbers had been removed.

There is still a lot of work to do for us, citizens of Bonaire, the police, SELIBON and Wout from Zeeko Recycling Enterprises, who tries to collect 1 million kilos of old iron to ship to China, to make new scooters! ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



## Dive Friends 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Clean Up This Year



On Saturday, January 11th, a huge bunch of volunteers showed up at the Yellow Submarine location of Dive Friends Bonaire to join the first clean-up dive of this year.

Asko Zuidam informed the volunteers about the underwater rules and policies. The goal was the underwater world around Karel's Pier and a lot of glasses, bottles and fishing line were expected. As always Dive Friends Bonaire supplied free air and the use of mesh bags. Asko informed the audience about the danger of new fishing line and the stainless steel hooks, cans filled with paint and their effect on a wet suit and other diving gear.

Asko memorialized Albert Bianculli, our American volunteer who almost always was there to help clean the underwater world. Recently Albert fell, walking to his car, and died of a stroke at the age of 71. Sometimes life is almost too hard.

Then it was time to do the job. The tough ones walked to Karel's Pier. Others shared vehicles to the location. South of Karel's Pier they all walked into the water. After

one hour the result was a collection of almost 3,000 items, among them the expected bottles (800), 66 pieces of new fishing line, a mop(!), fireworks and some Christmas items. No bikinis this time.

Then, at 6pm, a pot luck barbecue was organized at the Hamlet location of Dive Friends. Chief Hamlet, better known as Patrick von Hamlet, officially registered as Patrick van Hooijdonk, enjoyed his last evening dinner. Patrick has spent some three and a half years of his life on the island as ICD staff member and location manager of the Hamlet Oasis. On January 15th, he flew off to the freezing cold climate of the Old World.

Back to the barbecue. A free drink and free meat was served by the organization and a raffle was held. The tired and satisfied divers enjoyed the sunset and the splendid dinner. As always plates were non-disposable and metal utensils were used. No waste, no plastic for the Dive Friends crew. Thanks again boys and girls. All the best Patrick! Have a safe journey, Albert... ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

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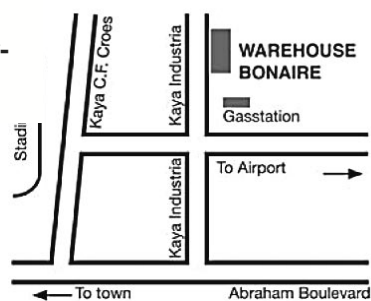


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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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**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 **Auto City 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.

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

## BARS

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## HOME CARE

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## PHOTOGRAPHER

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## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

**Harbourtown Real Estate** for your real estate buying or selling needs. Listings of homes, land, businesses, apartments and commercial property.



**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. Its Zazu Bar is a very popular hangout for divers too.

**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.

**Sonia Home** — Bonaire's stylish Italian restaurant offering top quality Italian food, conveniently located off the northern traffic circle near hotels. Open for lunch (after Feb. 1), Happy Hour and dinner. Top chef in charge.

## RETAIL

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

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## 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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**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. Souvenir mugs available.

## VARIETY STORE

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

## 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)

# Farmers' Market at Kriabon



Always popular at the market, "Green Thumb" Leo and his healthy, lush plants

The Kriabon Farmers' Market, every first Saturday of the month, offers home grown fruits and vegetables, ornamental, flowering and fruit bearing plants, home made jams, jellies, sweets, fruit drinks, live chickens, rabbits, ducks and more. Other things too: crafts, used clothing, toys, garden tools, bric a brac. The monthly Farmers Market is a fun social event as well. Meet old friends and make new ones. Special this time is a talk by STINAPA about wetlands at 10 am. Don't miss it! Saturday, February 1, 8 am to 1 pm at Kriabon on Kaminda Yatu Baku, up the road from More for Less Supermarket and next to the Aquamarin School.



Some of the people who make the market happen: Glenda Abrahams, Wotty DePalm (President, Kriabon), Agnes Joosten

Kriabon is the farmers' cooperative that sells animal feed and supplies, seeds, with more items being added all the time. It's open Monday and Friday, noon to 6 pm. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 2 to 6 pm. Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo

# DID YOU KNOW?



© Tomas Kotouc

That the overfishing of sharks is causing a decrease in the number of herbivorous fish on coral reefs? It turns out that sharks do much more for the coral reef ecosystem than just eat fish. Sharks specifically prey on mid-level predators such as snappers, so when shark numbers decline, the number of mid-level predators increases. This means that the mid-level predators are eating greater numbers of their prey, herbivorous fish. Herbivorous fish, such as parrotfish, play a very important role in the coral reef ecosystem. They eat the algae that would otherwise compete with coral for space to grow. The fact that sharks are being overfished all over the world, largely due to the shark-fin trade, is endangering the ability for new corals to develop and coral reefs to expand. The next time you see a shark, don't be scared, thank him for eating the fish that keep the reef healthy! ■ Elizabeth Groover



Elizabeth Groover is a Marine Biology major and Aquarium Science minor from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. She is studying on Bonaire for the fall semester at the CIEE Research

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A few of the 100 plus people at the memorial service held January 23 at Captain Don's Habitat



Several speakers eulogized Jack

Last Thursday a combined religious and secular memorial service on the terrace area above Habitat's dive operation area brought together a diverse collection of admirers of Jack including retired UPB party leader **Ramonsito Booi**, **Captain Don** himself, representatives of the several foundations Jack served on or led, divers, friends, business associates and tourists.

**Henry van der Kwast**, CEO of Maduro Holdings, the owners of Habitat and Insel Air, gave a passionate eulogy detailing Jack's early years and his contributions to the business. On a personal note he offered a judicious commentary about Jack's recent tribulations and their possible source. Through it all Maduro backed Jack.



Henry van der Kwast

He is survived by two sons, Chris Chalk (USA) and Paul Chalk; two brothers, Jimmy Chalk and John Allen Chalk, both of Texas; a sister, Mary Linda Kelley of Chattanooga; a grandson, Colby Chalk; and his fiancé, Jenny Choate of Lexington, Tennessee. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bonnie and Mary Nelle Chalk. Funeral services were held on Sunday, January 19, in Lexington with burial in Henderson County Memory Gardens. In Bonaire a memorial service for Jack Chalk is set for Saturday, February 8, at 3 pm at Coromoto Church, Antriol, followed by drinks and food at MCB parking lot, Playa.



A nostalgic slide show at the Memorial Service brought Jack back to life for the attendees.

The Reporter sends our most sincere condolences to his loved ones and family. We will miss Jack Chalk terribly.

Condolences and donations instead of flowers can be forwarded to Jenny Choate, PO Box 1424, Lexington, Tennessee 38351 or his son Chris Chalk (via PayPal) at [lexfire212@yahoo.com](mailto:lexfire212@yahoo.com). ■ G.D



# THE PIRATE'S PEN

by Jack Chalk

Jack Chalk is the president of CURO and manager of dive operations at Captain Don's Habitat. His weekly columns comment on Bonaire's dive scene.

Imagine yourself kicking back on your patio on a Saturday afternoon. The breeze is blowing, you're drinking your favorite beer, munching on some pretzels, all the time thinking to yourself how good life really is.

Then all of a sudden a 747 airliner swoops in on top of you and just hovers 2 feet from your face and begins to rapidly flash its landing lights right in your eyes. Before you know it, there are 2, 3, 4, even 5 more 747s doing the same thing.

Now one 747 extends its landing gear, that conveniently has claws instead of wheels, and picks you up out of your comfortable, laid-back position and begins to play catch with you, repeatedly pitching you right in front of one of the landing lights.

This story may sound a little far fetched and frightening at the same time, but this is pretty similar to what seahorses and frogfish go through every day when divers are around. So the next time you are out there diving and begging your divemaster to find you a seahorse or a frogfish, think about the story I just told you before you reach in to grab the seahorse or frogfish and try to move it for a better picture. If you can't get that perfect shot, remember that just seeing one of these beautiful and fragile animals in the wild is something that very few people in the world will ever have the chance to see.

Let's have a little bit more courtesy toward the animals we so dearly love to see, for without being courteous toward them, we might just some day not have any around to be courteous to.

# Pet of the Week

Take a look at this profile of "Bonnie," a blonde girl with the short perky ears. She has a very unique look for a Bonairean dog, no? Bonnie was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter about six months ago with her puppy. This homeless, single mother, has thrived and watched her pup grow up to be adopted. Bonnie is now about one and a half years old and is a great all-around dog: smart, relatively mellow except when she's called upon to be a good watch dog. She gets along with all kinds of dogs and people, but not with cats. So if this is the kind of pet with such a good disposition and unique looks that you're looking for, stop by the Shelter and meet her. She's been checked out by the vet, given her shots, been wormed, sterilized and even has an ID chip. And she's totally social! All this is included in the dog adoption fee of \$75.



Bonnie

The Shelter is on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. [www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com). Facebook too.  
The Shelter is a beautifully run operation and we can be proud to have it on our island!  
■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo

# Shelter News

Last week a dog was brought in by Shelter volunteer Mieke. She was driving on Kaya Korona and right in front of her eyes a dog was run over. The driver did not stop and the dog was left in the street. Mieke immediately took the injured dog to the Shelter. At the Shelter the vet took really good care of her and the staff nursed her back to health. The first couple of days the dog was not able to walk or eat. But a miracle happened - she recovered. Soon she will be sterilized and ready for a new home. ■ Marlis Tiepel

## Miracle Dog



Miracle dog Isadora and Mieke.

If you would like to make a donation to the Shelter here is a wish list full of items they need and use every day when caring for the animals at the Shelter. Any of the items on this list would be very much appreciated. And money donations are appreciated too.

- Toys, leashes, collars
- Cat carriers
- De-worming pills for kittens, puppies, cats, and dogs
- Flea/tick shampoo or spray
- Cat & dog food – to feed our the dogs and cats
- KRM (Kitten Replacement Milk)

- Litter for our kittens/cats
- Garbage bags
- Bleach and cleaning supplies
- Surgical gloves for clean up
- Ivomec for anti mange treatment of dogs
- Used books, all kinds of used, but good clothes (to sell at the monthly flea market)
- Folding tables (to be used at the monthly flea market)

If you are interested in donating any of the items above please contact Marlies at the Bonaire Animal Shelter (00599-7174989). ■ Laura DeSalvo

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## THE FOOTBALL IN THE SKY

Super Bowl XLVIII is the upcoming American football championship game between the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos to decide the National Football League (NFL) champion for the 2013 season. With football on our mind we can find an (American) football in the Bonaire Sky Park. Did you ever suspect that there's a football in the January winter sky?



The most distinguishing feature of the winter sky is a star pattern called the **Winter Hexagon**. Covering almost half the sky, incorporating six constellations and eight of the 20 brightest stars visible from Earth, the Winter Hexagon puts its stamp on the season.

But in honor of the upcoming Super Bowl, consider changing its name to the **Winter Football**. When you step outside and see the clear winter sky, you'll spot it immediately.

Around 9 pm look south-east. You can see most of these stars anytime from sunset to midnight too. Notice a ring of sparkling, multicolored jewels shining down on you. Some call this the Winter Circle or Winter Hexagon, but, even better I think they look like a giant football flying through the air, pointy on two ends, rounded in the two middles. And winter is the season for football championships. Let's call this formation the Winter Football.

The main player inside the winter football is **Orion the Hunter**. Easily recognized by the three stars that make his snazzy belt, Orion stands about halfway up in the southeastern sky like a hulking linebacker about to make a tackle.

Looking around the Winter Football begin with the brightest star in the sky. This is the **Dog Star** also named **Sirius**. If you connect the dots of Orion's belt stars and continue that line to the left, you can't miss it. Sirius is a brilliant white star and one of our closest stellar neighbors. (Don't confuse Sirius with the planet **Jupiter** nearby which is even brighter.) Following our football theme, Sirius marks the nose of one of the two team mascots, the big dog, or **Canis Major**. In Greek mythology Canis Major was one of Orion's dogs. Orion's other hunting dog, and the other team mascot, can be found up and to the left of Sirius - around the bright star **Procyon**. Procyon is a yellow-white star in the constellation **Canis Minor**, the little dog.

Keep going up and to the left, and you'll find two stars of similar brightness. These are the two heads of the **Gemini** twins, **Pollux and Castor**. Both twins were incredibly athletic and would make a great quarterback and wide receiver combo.

The bright star nearest the zenith, and at the tip of the football is called **Capella**. Capella is the brightest star in the constellation **Auriga the Charioteer**. Auriga could serve as coach and chauffeur to the football team. Greek myths described him as having difficulty walking and he therefore invented the chariot. But he was also good at giving advice and can look over the field from his position high in the sky.

Going down the other side of the football and we come to a bright, orange star. This is **Aldebaran**, the glowing eye of **Taurus the Bull**. Oops, there is no pro football team called the Bulls.

The last star in the football is the bright blue star, **Rigel**. This marks the left foot of our buddy Orion and is one of the truly amazing stars in our galaxy. It's around 800 light years away from us and is still one of the brightest stars.... It must be huge!

Congratulations, you've traced the Winter Football in the sky. Look for it after dark for the next few months. The Winter Football has more big stars than any pro team. And they're available to you every night until baseball season. ■ *Dean Regas / G.D.*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
February 2014

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You will find your personal partner taxing this month. You will attract new love interests. You can come up with future trends in creative fields. Verbal abuse could lead to carelessness. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Your nerves are frazzled. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. This will be a good day for research and for sitting down with some good, informative reading material. You need some help this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Financial gains can be made through wise investments. You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Get involved in creative groups. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't let your personal partner hold you back. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. Stop those bad habits. Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You may be tempted to get involved in secret affairs or love triangles. This may not be the day to get involved in risky joint financial ventures. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Older family members may try to put unreasonable demands on you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) This is a great day for a trip. Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. Get into some activities that will help you in making new friends. This is a great day for a family outing or just a drive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Work on legitimate financial deals that may enable you to bring in some extra cash. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Social activity with friends and relatives will be most successful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't reveal any personal details. You can make reasonable bids on real estate or large items for your home. Your emotions are fluctuating, so be careful not to say things you'll regret. You may exaggerate your emotional situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. You can enhance your reputation if you treat family and friends with respect and dignity. Acknowledge your lover's needs. You can make some favorable changes to your looks. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Look to a close friend for advice. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Discord may arise with someone you're close to. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter. You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling. Abstain from getting involved with married individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can't live your life for others. Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. Don't forget to read the fine print. Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. ■

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- price is negotiable
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- living area: 2,152 ft<sup>2</sup> / 200 m<sup>2</sup>

**Reduced price US\$ 230,000**

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