

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE March 24-April 7, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 7
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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**The Island of
Volunteers** Page 11



Photo by Laura DeSalvo

**Bon Doet volunteers from MBO high school paint at
Krusada Walk-In Rehab Center in Antriol**

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

According to the statistics bureau CBS 17, 408 people were living on Bonaire at the end of 2013.

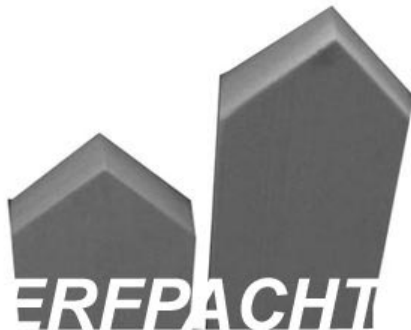
► Island Tourism Commissioner Edsel Winklaar and Candice Adams Kimmel, from TCB US, attended the annual airlines "Routes Americas" event in El Salvador. Discussions were held with Avianca Columbia, COPA, GOL, JetBlue, American/US Airways, Southwest Airlines, Delta, United, Insel Air and Inter-Caribbean Airways. The Bonaire team was trying to get increased airlift to the island from the US and the Americas. Southwest, a favorite among American travelers, starts service to the Caribbean on July 1. The airline, with a fleet of 700 aircraft, is expanding its international operations as part of its merger with Air Tran. New service for the summer 2015 season will be announced in the next four to five months.



holding a new referendum on the future constitutional status of the island, is asking to become a member of the preparatory committee for the referendum. According to Finies, his foundation has valuable contacts and information that are essential to the process.

Last month Bonaire's Island Council adopted a motion formalizing its consideration of a constitutional referendum.

The preparatory committee has two more weeks to look into the strategy, timing and content resulting from public consultation.



►From the *Extra* newspaper: A recent local government release gave the impression that a ground lease (*erfpacht*) is the same as a local tax. That is not so. The ground lease is a contract between two parties and is governed by civil law. The local government should adhere to the provisions of the contract. There are several lease contract forms. There are contracts where an increase in the canon (the annual fee) is possible after a certain number of years, but there are contracts in which it is not possible. The local government makes it appear as if they can increase the canon unilaterally in all cases. That is not so.

Consumers who have to deal with an increase in the canon should investigate whether the increase is applicable to them. If the increase is not possible in their contract it does not need to be paid. The consumer can then continue paying the old, lower amount.

►The benches are returning to waterfront Wilhelmina Park. The old benches as well as numerous trees were removed during the "facelift" of the Park last year. Now they are coming back. In the photo Island Secretary Nerry Gonzalez, Infrastructure Commissioner James Kroon and Ellie Noij-Penning of the Space and Development Directorate try out the first of the



Bonaire Government photo

new benches installed by construction company BWM.

►Dutch Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk refused to comment about an investigation of the European anti-fraud bureau OLAF concerning the sewer project on Bonaire that was financed with money from the European Development Fund (EDF). Per capita, it is the most expensive sewer system on the planet.

On February 21 the minister informed the Second Chamber of Parliament in The Hague on the confidential presentation of the investigation report. Both the accompanying letter and the report were not made public.

According to the announcement, "this letter has been submitted for confidential perusal only to the members at the Central Information Point Second Chamber."

►The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has requested that all guest accommodations and restaurants forward their up-to-date information for its website

www.tourismbonaire.com. The information can be sent to

angelodomacasse@tourismbonaire.com. "A functional website is of crucial importance for a destination considering the digital trend," according to TCB.

The new website can also be viewed on desktop, tablets and mobile phones, in order to be in a top place on search engines. It will be multilingual- English, Spanish and Dutch - plus, in the future, an option for German and Portuguese.

►The US has not had an ambassador in the Netherlands since Fay Hartog Levin left in September 2011. Last week the US senate voted in favor of naming lawyer



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
Timothy Broas as America's new representative in The Netherlands, the embassy announced on Twitter.

The naming of Broas comes just ahead of President Obama's visit to The Netherlands to attend the Nuclear Security Summit at the end of this month. Broas should have been named in 2012 but he withdrew after he was caught driving under the influence of alcohol. He has no diplomatic experience, but he collected more than \$500,000 for Obama's 2012 campaign from family members.

► **Three quarters of the population of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba – the Caribbean Netherlands – say they feel healthy, despite the fact that 61% of the people are overweight.**



The Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) published the results of the Omnibus survey which was carried out on all three islands in June and July, 2013. The CBS researchers randomly interviewed close to 1,900 people in the Dutch Caribbean, 1,261 in Bonaire about their health, life style, medical contacts and other issues that affect their daily life such as safety, housing and transport.

Three out of every four persons 15 years and older, or 74.4%, indicated that they generally felt healthy in 2013. However, 60% of the people on all three islands combined are overweight, while 36.5% are of a

normal weight. In Bonaire, more women than men suffered from severe obesity. **Overweight is more common among adults, especially persons between the ages 45 and 65** suffer from this problem; more than 70% of them were overweight.

► According to the US International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) 2013, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Aruba and **the BES-Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) are doing very little to fight corruption.** However, Aruba could serve as an example for Curaçao and St. Maarten on how to combat international drug trafficking.

► **Rianne Gietman** from Rincon Bonaire, has reached the finals of the song contest of Children for Children in The Netherlands. Of the hundreds of entries, Rianne's song was chosen by the jury as one of the 12 most beautiful songs.

The song, titled "Music Makes You Dream," is about bullying and believing in yourself. On the website <http://www.waanzinniggedroomd.nl/stemmen/12> you can vote, read the lyrics, listen to the song and see a video clip.

Vote for Rianne Gietman's song and help Bonaire win. The winning song gets on the 35th CD of Children for Children, and a special place in the musical "Waaninnig Gedroomd" which premieres in October.

► **Bonaire's #1 Trip Advisor rated restaurant, the Cactus Blue Food Trailer, has moved from Kite Beach to the car park by Pink Beach** and will be there until further notice. Chef Hagen is cooking from 11 am till 4 pm Monday to Friday.

(Continued on page 5)

Farmers' Market

Buy local, buy fresh! You can do that at the monthly Farmers Market every first Saturday of the month.

On Saturday, April 5, there will be another Farmers' Market at Kriabon from 8 am to 1 pm. Kriabon is on Kaminda Yatu Baku #55, up the road from More for Less and next to Aquamarin School. Be sure and get there early as a lot of the good produce and other items are sold out quickly. There's always something interesting happening – maybe a talk by Stinapa, a song fest, a horse demonstration. Meet the farmers, see some of your old friends and maybe even make some new ones.

Bring the whole family. It's fun for all. ■
 Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo



Stephanie Booi and Said Elkrich of The Fresh Market sell their vegetables



Gina Emerenciana (right) sells very tasty local food like kabritu and baka stobas

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On The Island Since...

May 2001 and October 2011 - Yuri van Kampen
March 22d, 2008 - Meriam van Kampen-Scholtes

“The first time I came here was because I saw an ad in a magazine in Holland where they were asking for a butcher for the Cultimara Supermarket. I’d been a butcher ever since I was 16, and I was working at a traditional butcher shop in a place called Nieuwegein, Holland. So, I applied, but in the end I didn’t go through with it because my wife was pregnant. However, a year later I got a call from Cultimara asking whether I was still interested in coming to Bonaire. My son Dion was one year old and by the end of April 2001 we left for Bonaire.



Yuri and Meriam

My wish was to live abroad; my mother had lived in India and my wife had lived in Australia and we were longing to live in the tropics. Of course the job offer made it easier as it gave us financial security.

I worked almost three years for Consales and Cultimara as a butcher as well as in sales with Consales for the last year. During that time I wrote for *The Reporter* as well. I had my own weekly recipe column. You see, I love to cook, it doesn’t matter what! On August 23d, 2002, our daughter Noa was born.

I’ve never felt homesick for Holland; I felt I could do anything here. I didn’t miss the crowded shopping malls and I still don’t. I went diving and sometimes windsurfing, we went barbecuing on the beach, we had good friends – I’ve never been bored on Bonaire! When the economy on the island dropped because of a lack of tourists after 9/11 and the financial situation of Consales/Cultimara was heading for bankruptcy and a job was no longer guaranteed for a large group of people, we decided to go back.

I started working at a butcher shop in Holland, but somehow I just couldn’t get used to being in Holland anymore. I missed Bonaire terribly. After a couple of years we were settled again, but the island kept pulling me and the wish to go back some day was always there. During all those years I’d stayed in touch with Pieter Groenendal who owned TIS at the time and through him I returned eight years later to Bonaire to set up the butcher shop at Van den Tweel’s.

My wife and I had gotten divorced so I came by myself. Van den Tweel was a new business; it was a challenge. And then... only days after I arrived on the island I met Meriam and things went fast!”

Meriam says, “We met at City Café, at the bar. Yuri had landed on November 1st and we met on the 7th and we immediately stayed together. I was going through a divorce and Yuri wanted to build a new life and together we’ve sorted it out! We were married within nine months, on August 4, 2012.”

“I did miss my children,” Yuri says, “but because I had a very busy and demanding

job I wasn’t always aware of it. Of course there were those special moments when I wasn’t there with them, but I didn’t make a big problem out of it as it had been my choice to go to Bonaire. However, it was harder for the children.

When we got married my children came for a vacation and then they went back. But a couple of months later my ex-wife told me that the children wanted to come to live with us, especially my son Dion. He is 14, a teenager, and during his vacation he had become a certified diver. For him it was the combination of the island, the outdoor life style and being with his dad.”

“The island has everything to live a good life together as a family and with good friends...”

“First we had mentioned it as a joke,” Noa, Yuri’s 11 year old daughter says, “but then I had to choose and I thought ‘why not! I’d better make choices in my life!’”

“We didn’t put any pressure on the kids,” Yuri smiles. “In the end they made the decision.”

Meriam explains, “From not having any kids to all of a sudden having two teenagers in the house – that wasn’t always easy! I’d just started a new job with Best Brands Bonaire and so I had two challenges, well three, including Yuri ha ha ha! But I did it! Of course there’s a big difference between being on vacation or living somewhere, but the children adapted quickly. It’s Noa who has decided she doesn’t want to stay, but she has to finish at least one school year because making choices has consequences. After this school year Noa will go back to Holland because she misses her mom, her grandparents, and her friends, going to the movies, bicycling, shopping and hockey.

Dion stays here; he’s doing very well at high school. Well, I got two kids, but Yuri got four dogs. When he came I had three Bouviers and one Fila Brasileiro. When two of the Bouviers passed away, we got these two dogs through the animal protection services, because,” she smiles “having only two dogs was too few, it was really quiet in the house! In the same way



The family all together: Noa, Meriam, Dion, Yuri and all four pets

that Yuri wasn’t used to having dogs, I never had children.

I worked for 20 years at Heineken Holland and I had a rose nursery. When I came here on vacation in January 2008, I saw that Bonaire also had a Heineken distributor. So I went in and I had a wonderful conversation with the interim man-

ager at the time, Hans Mondria, and the financial manager, Ronald Hooi. had with Bellafonte was that during the first visit of Willem-Alexander and Maxima to Bonaire, we – Marcel Nahr, Tim Peters and I - took care of their dinner and breakfast while they stayed at Belafonte. I prepared Maxima’s breakfast in bed – strawberries and mango. However, I didn’t take it to her personally!

Being the manager of the condominium means that I’m taking care of and supervising the daily rentals, hosting the guests, cleaning the apartments, management of the website, the marketing and the reservations. It’s a very nice and versatile job which can be very demanding, especially during high season. Then it’s a challenge to give it your personal touch. But because I love the job and I am so intensely busy with it, I also get a very positive feedback from the guests, sometimes personally, but also through Trip Advisor or the social media.”

“We are not planning to leave Bonaire,” Meriam says. “The island has everything to live a good life together as a family and with good friends. In spite of the fact that now and then you have to let go of very good friends because they don’t stay here, they are nevertheless true friendships. Both of us work a lot and when we’re off, we’re busy with the dogs and the children. Yuri’s greatest hobby – next to me,” she laughs, “is fishing.” “You’re my biggest catch!” Yuri laughs. “But it’s like this, the children, the dogs and our friends; that’s our life. Of course we also feel that it’s a period of transition for Bonaire and for many people it is not easy. I’m hopeful for the future, but a lot has to happen because it’s not a copy paste Holland. There is a large group of people who live in poverty and that’s unacceptable. Child support is a must, state pension and pensions need to be adjusted. The Netherlands needs to take their responsibility, because they signed for it on 10-10-10.”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



A Gourmet Trip to France on Bonaire



Mesmerized by anything created with olive oil - I'm known to even enjoy a generous amount of liquid gold in my dessert—I gladly accepted the challenge to compose a review of one of the most frequented restaurants on dushi Bonaire. The Bistro de Paris, located at Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 71, at Harbour Village Marina, offers a setting that is a feast for the senses. The ambiance is inviting, with soft trades wafting through the open-air portion of the Bistro, and the moored boats gently undulating at the Bistro's deck side and beyond.

Accompanied by my parents and husband, we - all lovers of French cuisine - brought along hearty appetites, ready to dig into a sample of offerings on a perfect Friday evening. My dad, ever the Dutchman, was looking forward to a treat: "A free meal is 'het lekkerste' (the tastiest)," says he.

Patrice Rannou, the Bistro's executive chef and owner, welcomed us with a warm smile and left us in the very capable hands of Diany, our Dutch server who originates from Curaçao. She recommended starting with the red house wine, the ClaudeVal, and we decided to stick with this distinctive and tasty blend from beginning to end. The menu's items, such as the Bistro's famed French onion soup and escargots, conjure up fragrances and flavors of past vacations in the French countryside.

I started with the tartine of escargots (sounds more appetizing than snails). The appetizer alone could have satisfied one as an entrée. It was oversized, so I encouraged my dinner mates to take a ("small") dip. The combination of garlicky olive oil and crunchy escargots ladled on baguette slices and flanked by a just-right, lukewarm salad, satisfied all my savory cravings. In turn, I took ample bites - in the name of my mission, of course -from my husband's and Dad's wahoo (catch-of-the-day) ceviche.

Hubby's marinated wahoo was appropriately dressed in lime and vinegar, while my dad opted for the four-way wahoo special as an appetizer. As a non-lover of wahoo, I did however appreciate its freshness and firm texture in the miniature fish dishes, amid soy, fruits, cream and lime. All commented not only on the melt-in-your-mouth offerings, also on the richness and vast

amounts of olive oil involved - most enjoyable to me, but maybe not everyone else's cup of tea.

I followed up with the lamb shank, surrounded by a heap of veggie risotto. The meat was so tender; it had obviously been baked for hours. Not a morsel of this dish was left after I dove in.

My table companions were warned to keep to their own plates- or else! Dad chose the shank as well, and came away happy as a lamb. He did, however, comment on the intense richness of the dish.

Mom ordered the Caribbean lobster, which as always these days, was quite pricey. The succulent and sweet tasting lobster swam in an ocean of olive oil and fragrant spices, accompanied by a creamy risotto. Alas, it proved overpowering for her. She asked for assistance, and I was all too happy to oblige. I love lobster, but I had to admit it was almost too powerful even for me. Hubby demurred from our assessment: "Unlike anything I've ever had; best lobster ever!" he declared. He had ordered the vegetarian main course, a quinoa risotto, which merited sighs of satisfaction and from Dad and me as well. Its moist deliciousness was augmented by slices of baked brie toppings for good measure.

And finally came la piece de resistance, a shared dessert of *mousse de chocolat*. Mom opted out, still spent from tackling her main course. That left the three remaining stalwarts to thrust headlong into la mousse. The chef evidently knew about my olive oil fetish; it must have been ladled out in cups. Or was it butter?

In all, it was a superb evening, with ample, just-right wine to accompany a wonderfully prepared and served meal. For some it was a bit too rich; for me it was perfect. The wait staff was pleasant and attentive, catering to our every whim. Since this is not a "snek," the prices aren't cheap. But neither are they terribly high for "a gourmet trip to France" on Bonaire. Both the wine and food selections are extensive, inviting further investigation in the future. I'll be back soon, and Vive la France! ■ Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



Members of the Bonaire Island Council met with interim Governor Edison Rijna for a get acquainted lunch earlier this month. From the left: Nollie Wilsoe, Maritza Silberie, Rafael Santana, Governor Rinja, Marugia Janga, Robbie Beukenboom and Benito Dirksz. Councilman Jeffery Levenstone was not present.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

His mammoth Kite Burgers and Lionfish Burgers are drippingly delicious. The Cactus Blue food trailer will be closed from May 18th-25th as the chef will be competing at the Delta Lloyd Regatta, a kite race event in Holland, and also celebrating a long-overdue honeymoon.

See related item on Page 12.



►The RASTRO Art Exhibition on March 14th has been rescheduled for the Plaza Resort Bonaire for the 28th of March.

Eight ABC Island artists will be present with their paintings. From Aruba: Elvis Tromp, Edmond Tujeehut, Frank Croes, Nigel Mathew, Eefje v. der Straten. From Curaçao: Asyla ten Holt and Papy Adriana.

From Bonaire: paintings by Nochi Coffee and poems from Jackie Bernabela.

►On Saturday, March 29, from 8am - 2 pm there will be a Cultural Market at the Mangazina di Rei, located on the main road to Rincon. There will be local art, plants, seeds, lectures, music and much more in the pleasant atmosphere of one of Bonaire's cultural treasures. Local craftsmen and farmers will have their wares. Locals and tourists all invited. Free.

►A new spa and fitness studio recently opened above the restaurant at the Spice Beach Club. The Aqua Spa & Gym offers massages, hand and foot care, luxury spa experiences. And at the Aqua Terrace and Pool fitness classes including Outdoor TRX, Yoga, Core Class, Aqua Gym and Salsa Lessons as well as personal training. Unique on the island are activities for kids. Call 717-6720 for reservations or information.

If you are a member of Bon Bida Spa, lessons are free.

►Remember, to tell the stores you shop and the restaurants you frequent to advertise in *The Bonaire Reporter*. Then it can still be free to our readers. ■ G.D./L.D.



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Crystal Gold The Solar Salt Works of Bonaire.



Blue Pond with obelisk marker

The second of a three-part article by Patrick Holian about the Cargill Solar Salt Works in the south of Bonaire

PART 2-CULTURAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT

Drive south on the E.G.G. Boulevard on any given day and it is easy to see evidence of salt in the making. It is a simple, time-tested process that mixes seawater, wind and sun to produce mounds of pure white NaCl. But more than that, this iniquitous compound is a cultural thread, an inexplicable link that weaves back in island history for more than 350 years.

It was in 1636 when Holland roused Bonaire away from Spain after the Spaniards had cut off the supply of this essential mineral to the Lowlands. Once a Dutch fleet captured the ABC Islands, they gained

control of Bonaire's coveted salt deposits. Enter the Dutch West Indies Company, an aggressive, Amsterdam-based merchant monopoly that thrived in the slave trade and reaped the Caribbean's natural resource wealth. These were the days before refrigeration, and salt was vital for preserving meat and fish. It was a fundamental commodity that allowed Mother Holland to safely feed the sailors of her enormous worldwide fleet.

During the 1600s the Dutch enslaved Africans and shipped them to Bonaire where they worked alongside Indians and convicts harvesting salt. Today, abandoned slave quarters along the coastal road are testament to this oppressive time in the island's history. Up to six workers would sleep in one of these rock huts after a grueling day of hard labor under the blazing sun. Gaze through a slave hut window to the tranquil



The original slave huts (left) had thatched roofs. In the 1990s the huts were restored with wooden roofs (right).



blue sea and it is hard to imagine the agony these people endured for centuries.

Over the next 200 years Bonaire's salt industry prospered, first under the Dutch West Indies Company, and later under direct governmental control. Trading ships would moor outside the reef, and small boats were sent ashore to pick up the goods. Fires were burned to guide the sailors to one of four loading sites – Rode Pan (Red Pond), Witte Pan (White Pond), Blauwe Pan (Blue Pond), and Oranje Pan (Orange Pond). These names represented the colors of the Dutch flag and the Royal House of Orange.

Legend has it that women were the ones who transferred the salt to the boats. Two men would lift a heavy basket of salt and place it on top of a woman's head. She would then balance the load while walking a plank to the end of a makeshift pier and



Women worked alongside the men

place the salt in a small boat. Once the boat was full, four men would pull the boat on a long rope stretched between the pier and the trading ship waiting beyond the reef, and deliver the salt. Some captains of these ships described the women as "mermaids from the sea." A working song, *Man pa makutu di Maria* (Give a hand to the basket of Maria) documented their noble story of

(Continued on page 7)

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Salt (Continued from page 6)

strength and labor. It was later sung as a lullaby to children of the island.

By the 1830s, Bonaire's production had grown so large that obelisk towers were built near each of four salt ponds, thus replacing the need for shore fires. Flags were hoisted to the tops of these pointed pillars when a load was ready for pickup. Each obelisk took the symbolic color of its respective pond, but it also denoted where a specific grade of salt could be loaded. The coastal road is still dotted with these colorful, stone structures.

By the middle of the 19th century, however, the salt industry fell on hard times. Slavery was finally abolished and international competition sharply reduced profits. In 1870, E.B.F. Hellmund purchased the island's nine salt ponds from the government. Afterwards, the salt industry languished for nearly a century.

"You must remember, the original salt ponds were very primitive," says Paulina "Popi" Rodriguez, an administrative secretary at Cargill. "They were salt flats where the water simply dried up and then the salt was harvested. In our modern era, it is about guiding the flow of the water and getting a high quality salt. To get high purity, you must manage the water."

In 1963 the Antilles International Salt Company, a subsidiary of the International Salt Company, bought the salt ponds. By 1972 they shipped their first load of Bonaire salt. Rodriguez, who has worked at the salt works for nearly 35 years, remembers the first loading. "I was just a young girl, but everyone came down from Playa to watch. It was very exciting."



Working conditions today (at right) differ greatly from those in the 1830s (left above)

The modern era experienced several setbacks in salt production. In 1988 Hurricane Joan brought excessive amounts of rain that washed out dikes, damaged pond floors and killed many flamingos. Eleven years later Hurricane Lenny roared toward Bonaire. "Lenny was scary for me because of the surge," remembers Popi Rodriguez. "It was strange. There was no wind or rain like Joan, but the sea came all the way to the piles and collapsed them. It was devastating."

Ownership of the salt works changed through the decades from the Antilles International Salt Company to Akzo, which eventually merged into Akzo Nobel. US-based Cargill Corporation bought the operation in 1997 and currently employs 46 people. That makes it one of the major employers on Bonaire and it contributes over \$5 million annually to the local economy. "Roughly 60% of our employees are mechanics," says plant manager Gary Rimmy. "These guys are gifted. They can rebuild

anything, and I mean anything, without many resources. They are who allow us to produce the salt."

After spending a couple of days at Cargill, I soon found out that there is only one four-letter word beyond salt that is on everyone's mind, rust. The corrosive nature of salt invades everything at the solar salt works—machinery, electronics, and cars, even people. Rust even dictates what kind of machinery is purchased to survive this brutal environment. "We rarely buy new equipment," adds Rimmy. "We can bring a new piece here and it will rust out in four years. Or we can bring in cheaper, used equipment and it will rust out in three years. But with our maintenance staff, we keep the machinery going. We often look for old style engines that don't have electronic ignitions and other bells and whistles because our climate just destroys those kinds of electronics."

Most other workers at Cargill are involved in the production of salt. While the opera-

tion on Bonaire is not large compared to salt operations worldwide, the salt produced here has an international reputation for its high quality and purity. "In my opinion, we make the best solar salt in the world so that gives us a bit of a competitive edge in the world marketplace," claims Rimmy. "But we're also competitive because of our workers here on Bonaire. We have a mature staff with a lot of experience. It's a pleasure to work with these people. They are real professionals."



Story & photos by Patrick Holian

In the next issue of The Bonaire Reporter, Part 3 of *Crystal Gold* examines the environmental importance of the salt works and concludes with the recent loading of the cargo ship, the *Michael A*, bound for the Dominican Republic with Bonaire salt.

DID YOU KNOW?

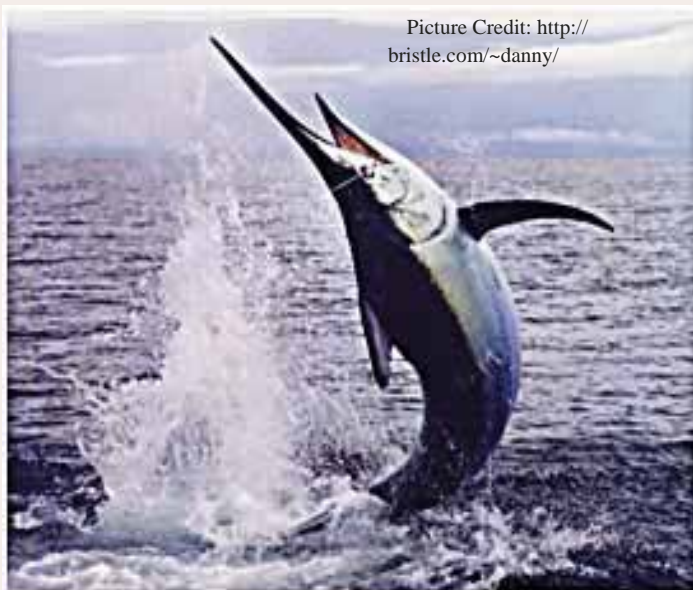
That Blue Marlin are caught more frequently around the full moon?

A study conducted in Japan recently found that catch rates of Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) in a daytime fishery increased closer to the full moon.

The study also found that larger marlin (averaging over two meters in length!) also had more fish in their stomachs at this time of the month. This could mean that these large predatory fish are feeding in the daytime more often during this phase of the moon. The increased feeding activity could be a result of the marlin avoiding other fish that are active at night, like sharks or other large predators.

Whether they are trying to avoid being eaten, or avoiding competition with other fish, something is affecting the way these fish hunt. ■ Mike Kenslea

Mike Kenslea is a Marine Biology major from the University of Rhode Island. He studied on Bonaire for the fall semester at the CIEE Research Station.



Picture Credit: <http://bristle.com/~danny/>



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ALLE UITZENDINGEN ZIJN TE ZIEN OP - PUES KORDA WAK

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The Travelling Piano Visits Again



About two years ago a piano made a long journey across Bonaire. This piano was part of an art project called 'Zoutkristallen', an initiative of artist Frouwkje Smit. The piano was seen in Antriol, in Rincon, in Playa and all different kinds of places. Christiaan van Woerden (a children's doctor working in Mariadal) was playing it, and every time the piano showed up, a different group of musicians gathered around. Rapper Gerald Martinus, singer/pianist Netanja and percussionist Gabi Mercera participated in most of the concerts.

When Frouwkje Smit and Christiaan van Woerden (photo above) went back to Holland, the piano stayed on the island.

About a year ago it gave a few small concerts, and just this month it was seen in Little Havana. Now it was part of an *afstudeerproject* of Laura Tesselaar, a student of "music in society." She organized a jam session in Little Havana. Christiaan van Woerden joined with Gabi Mercera, Netanja, Joshua, guitarist Terrence and last but not least rapper Gerald Martinus. ■

Story & photo by Janita Monna

Michael Lee Stanfield

Well known Bonaire part-time resident, resort owner and SCUBA diver, Michael Lee Stanfield, 67, of Grandview, Missouri, died Friday, March 7, while scuba diving on Bonaire's east coast. According to reports he was guiding two other divers in from a dive at Cai when they became separated. The divers did not see him again and called for help. A search was mounted and his body was later found in Lac Bay.



Michael and his wife at the 2012 Dakar motorcycle rally. Michael rode his KTM 450.

Michael was born August 15, 1946, in Warrensburg, Missouri, the son of Elbert Harvey "E. H." and Eula Lee "Peggy" (Davidson) Stanfield. He grew up on a farm. Michael graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in accounting. He married Jennifer Jones on December 27, 1964, in Warrensburg.

Michael started a Husqvarna motorcycle business out of his garage in 1974. He was involved in local and national motorcycle racing for four decades. He was a DAKAR rider (14-day, 5,000-mile, off-road motorcycle rally through Argentina, Chile and Peru) in 2011 and 2012. He rode in the one-week Ruta 40 Rally in 2013. In 2012, he founded Freedom Rally Racing. He was a member of the DAKAR Support Team in 2013 and 2014. Michael began scuba diving in 1997 and had completed more than 1,000 dives. Scuba diving was his second love next to motorcycle riding. He also loved underwater photography. He had a passion for life. "His switch was either on or off."

He leaves behind his wife, Jennifer; two sons, James M. Stanfield and wife, Donna, of Grandview; and Jeffery L. Stanfield and wife, Amy, of Lee's Summit, Missouri; brother, Marion H. Stanfield and wife, Charmian, of Freeport, Florida; and four grandchildren, Matthew J. Stanfield, Madison E. Stanfield, Andrew K. Stanfield and Collin G. Stanfield. ■ *Obit release/ G.D.*



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THANK YOU BONAIRE

Dear Editor:

My husband, Mike Stanfield, and I have been coming to Bonaire since 1998, and during that time we have experienced the compassionate, caring friendship of many of the local people along with other divers from all over the world. On Friday, March 7, my husband was doing a dive at Cai with two other divers. Yes, the waves were higher than normal. The three discussed the dive, made exit plans and reviewed signals. Weights came out of one of the diver's BCs and he surfaced. The other two also came to the surface. Two of the divers decided to head back to shore on top of the water. Mike signaled that he was going down and back to the shore. An hour passed and we notified 911. The helicopter arrived an hour and a half later and found Mike. I want to

offer my sincere thanks to the police, STINAPA, the local people at Cai, Boz who came to assist, plus the many, many others that offered prayers and sympathy. My sons were able to get a flight to be with me on Saturday to help with getting Mike home. During that week that we remained on Bonaire we were amazed at the outpouring of prayers and support that people offered, even from people we did not know. A huge thank you to all of you!

My advise to any DIVER who reads this is to make sure you have DAN insurance. Without this, I have no idea how we would have been able to get Mike home. DAN worked with the funeral home on Bonaire and in our home town to arrange air transportation for Mike, air transportation for me plus they either called or emailed just about daily to check on us.

Bonaire, thank you for the hospitality in the past and I look forward to coming back to "paradise."

Jenni Stanfield

See write-up on facing page 8 for more about Mike Stanfield

SNORKELERS VS. KITES

Dear Editor,
I love Bonaire. This is my 9th year visiting and in this time I have seen many changes. I try to embrace them all. Bonaire

has so much to offer to a person of my age, but also for the youth, teens and young adults. Kiteboarding, windsurfing, diving, stand up paddling and sailing are all available.

These young folks need more to do and a place to do it. So when I visited Atlantis, commonly called Kite Beach, I saw positive change. It is a great place for kites and kiter enthusiasts to gather. While kiting is central to Atlantis, the beach has become a nice place just to hang out. The question is how can the kites continue their sport while allowing others to safely enjoy this part of the coastline? And can this all be accomplished while respecting the marine environment at the same time?

Is this possible? Yes, I think so, but awareness on the water and common courtesy are key to making this work. Snorkeling the southwest coast of Bonaire is my passion. My favorite snorkel is a drift from Red Beryl to Margate. These days if I enter the water before 10am, all is good. There are very few kites. But after 10, especially on windy days, Red Beryl can be scary—not treacherous or dangerous—but scary. I am not over reacting here.

Last week while beginning this drift (in the light blue water) I see a kiter coming towards me. I pop up and wave an arm- to be seen- and to alert the kiter that I am there sharing the water. He was very close. Close

enough for me to see the look of shock on his face. I was wishing for a "thumbs up" or other signal from him, letting me know that he had seen me, and that he would remember I was sharing Red Beryl/Margate with him. I received no sign. Just a hasty come about and off again.

This has happened more than once. My snorkeling buddy has tried to call out to the kites in order to alert them that we are sharing the area, but again no response. After a drift snorkel we were admiring a pod of Dolphin swimming and feeding at Red Beryl. They too had the same problem I did. They were keeping an eye on the kites as well.

When I snorkel this area I make it a point to know where the kites are at all times. I keep my eyes on them, but I wonder if they are keeping their eyes on me? Do they not see me? Are they even aware of the snorkelers and divers using these sites?

STINAPA recommends that kites surf in dark blue water. Wonderful, but do kites even know this? Is STINAPA getting the word out to them? And is this rule explained to novice kites when they take their first kite lesson? This is a multi use area. Perhaps a bit of education can help all of us—kites, divers, and snorkelers—enjoy fantastic southern beaches of Bonaire.

Flipper
(Continued on page 13)



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New Tech Bonaire Hydrotest & Maintenance B.V.

Bonaire/Kralendijk –

Recently Arturo Barrios and Theresa Alfe opened their completely new and fully equipped workshop at Kaya Kilowot #3310, opposite BonDiGro, Bonaire's only Cooperative Discount Supermarket. In this workshop they test, maintain and repair all kinds of steel and aluminum air and gas tanks, a variety of scuba equipment and fire extinguishers. All testing and measuring machines are American made by Hydrotest Products Inc, Stow, Massachusetts. Barrios and his wife are proud of their enterprise, the new workshop and the top-of-the-line equipment.

Arturo shows me how he tests tanks and reads all the results from a connected computer. The fully computerized system automatically delivers a printout report of the test results. Arturo is also able to do a so called "eddy test." This test is necessary for aluminum tanks manufactured before 1987 to check for little cracks in the neck of the tank. Then he shows me the tumbling machine. This device tumbles steel and aluminum tanks filled with soft metal parts to clean the inside of the tanks. When there is some debris in the tanks this is a very efficient procedure to clean them. And then there is the blasting machine to blast the outside of the tanks before they are prepared for repainting.

Then Arturo shows me the brand new white Kia double air truck. The company



Arturo at his shop

will pick up and deliver tanks. BHM offers 24 hour service. Tanks can be picked up, checked and returned within one day!

Barrios has been a PADI instructor for some 30 years now. He is also a PCI and PSI inspector. Barrios is a fully legal Bonairean citizen and he is proud of his ID/Sedula. He speaks fluent English and Spanish and he is picking up Papiamentu. (His wife speaks Italian too!)

To find out more about BHM email: info@bhmbv.com or visit the website: www.bhmbv.com. Maybe the best thing to do is grab your tank, visit the workshop opposite BonDiGro and have it tested.

Within one day I received an email with a report of the test. My tank passed the test. And so did BHM! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Kontest di Fli Kite Contest

Coming soon – Sunday, April 6 - the annual

Kontest di Fli (kite contest), from 8 am to 6 pm, at the field behind Kooyman. This is the 36th year for this very popular event and it's still going strong! Incredibly creative participants from six to 100 years old strive to build the most beautiful, the biggest, the smallest, the most unusual or the strangest kite—all of them hand made. There are two contests – one for youngsters from six to 15, the other for adults 16 and up. Whole families and groups get together to try to launch their competing kite. Getting them into the air can be quite daunting. One year there was a kite made only of beer cans. That was a tough one to launch! Competitors also come from Curaçao, having their kites shipped over in a container. A group of illustrious, very experienced judges, many the same every year, struggle to choose the winning kites.

Along with the kite watching there is music, snacks and drinks. It's a great event for the whole family. Want to compete yourself? Sign up at the Bonaire Book Store on Kaya Grandi. Call 717-6586. ■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo



Have a Seat in the Park

STINAPA rangers are currently improving the facilities in Washington Slagbaai National Park by placing benches in designated areas for bird watching and relaxation.

The park rangers are building new wooden benches to be placed all over the Park so that there are more areas for visitors to stop and enjoy the views, have lunch and observe the wildlife. The barbecue corner at Playa Funchi now has two benches added, giving visitors a beautiful view of the bay. ■ Press release



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Bon Doet Volunteering for a Better Bonaire

White T-shirts were the dress code last Friday and Saturday as a big piece of Bonaire's population turned out to help people and organizations do needed chores.

The Bon Doet organization guided by CVDH Consultancy and the NGO Platform provided the structure, tools, supplies and coordination to the willing workers. The volunteers consisted of children, teens, adults, seniors, local businesses like Rocargo and SSS, service clubs, groups of family members, colleagues and friends. Several departments from the Island Government as well as youngsters from the high school SGB and the continuing education program FORMA also participated. ■

G.D./Press release/Photos Laura DeSalvo



Rocargo Team at the Bolas Field—building a snack bar.



Staff and family from SSS clean Park di Libertat (Dare to Care)



Lydia Wellvart and her team clean up San Bernardo Catholic Cemetery



Contour Global Team cleaned gardens and built a bathroom at Bon Kuido



Buddy Dive Team cleaned up the garden of the Centro Orkidia Prof. Alejandro Saleh

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Picture Yourself At The Smithsonian Air & Space Museum In Chantilly, Virginia, USA



Joan and Alan Zale wanted to test our readers and see if they noticed the BIG difference in these two photos. The photo on the left is the Space Shuttle Enterprise, which never flew in space. The Space Shuttle Discovery, on the right, shows the wear and tear of flying 39 missions and spending a total of 365 days in space. It has circled the earth 5,830 times flying 148,221,665 miles. The two photos were taken four days apart at The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center annex of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, VA. The photo of the Space Shuttle Enterprise was taken April 18, 2012, the day before it was moved out to be prepped for its trip to its new home in New York City. The Space Shuttle Discovery was then moved in and will now be on permanent display at the center. Alan returned to New York in time to photograph the Enterprise arriving on the back of a NASA 747. Joan and Alan are frequent visitors to Bonaire who just completed their 33rd trip. They own a condo at Sand Dollar and *never* travel anywhere without taking a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them. ■

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Word on the Street



After only two and a half months in his position, Deputy Hans Els was asked to resign by Rafael Santana, the Island Council member who originally appointed him. Els has publicly stated that "Bonaire is unstable and in reality even unmanageable....I find that Holland needs to intervene." Els also stated that he received a phone call from Santana telling him he had to resign because Els' car was seen in front of the Public Prosecutor's office and concluded that Els was there giving information about the Zambezi case. Els states he was parked there to take a picture of the bust of Betico Croes with a friend from Aruba in celebration of Dia di Aruba that week. Els submitted his resignation letter on March 17.

- **The local government announced that it will enforce the recently adopted maximum consumer pricing rules.** Are we about to see a return to the early days on Bonaire, when your choice of food products was really limited? A summary of a recent Facebook posting on March 21 advised the following: I just came from the [ed. name omitted] supermarket. Empty shelves, including no rice, at the butcher's counter no ground beef or ground "half and half". Placards in the store stated that due to the maximum pricing established by the local government these products will no longer be sold as of March 21. Yesterday the supermarket was warned that if within 24 hours the prices were not reduced to the maximum level, a fine of \$ 10,000 would be imposed. The government auditors were first in Rincon and now in Playa. All supermarkets are facing the new pricing. Products which are no longer profitable to sell (some items are already being sold below cost) are being removed from the shelves. If the maximum pricing is far below the cost to import and sell, will our choice of markets be diminished to only the "major" providers? How many *tokos* (small markets) will be out of business? How many jobs lost? Do we need to start growing our own? Or maybe some supermarket owners need to be socially responsible and take a loss on these "basic necessity" items and make up the difference on the "luxury" items? Did we ever see price reductions when the ABB tax was no longer charged on these items?

- An usually cryptic police bulletin issued on March 12 stated the follow-

ing: "On Wednesday, March 12 around 7:30 a.m. police received report of a burglary at a business on the Plaza Reina Wilhelmina. Unknowns entered the property through the back door and entered all areas, drawers and boxes searched. It is not yet known whether goods have been taken into account. The case is under investigation." Meanwhile, on March 13, local newspaper EXTRA published photos of this "burglary" which took place at the Bonaire post office. Boxes were opened and strewn everywhere.



The accompanying article indicated that the prime target was the **Punto Mio** area of the post office (the service that brings in "e-tail" from off island, including lots of Amazon products) and many packages were missing. The burglars also tried to open break into the safe on the premises but were unsuccessful. Anyone still waiting for an overdue package?

- **There is a NEW food wagon on island. Hamburger Xpress** recently set up business on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in front of Alex Plaza on Nikiboko Nort. Chef Lourdes Sicard, mother of Bonaire's Magic Ed, finally realized her dream after 30 years of restaurant experience. Hamburger Xpress serves a wide variety of standard and "exotic" hamburgers and opens at 8 pm on the weekends.

- And speaking of food wagons....**Food services at the Atlantis "Kite Beach" (Cactus Blue and Kite City) were temporarily suspended** as of March 17 due to legal issues between Cargill (which leases that land from the Bonaire government), the government and the various entities occupying Kite Beach. Cactus Blue relocated to Pink Beach. Mediation between the parties resulted in Cargill authorizing the return of the vending services (under certain conditions) beginning March 21. See related item on pages 3/5.

- Local media has received complaints from many people, especially residents of Rincon, that **they are unable to get to work or doctor appointments when there are cruise ships in port.** Rumor has it that the "autobuses" (AB licenses) that are supposedly part of the "public transport" system make better money transporting the cruise ship tourists than locals. While people in the Kralendijk barrios can walk to Playa or get a lift, Rincon residents cannot do this. The situation got to the point where a pediatrician, in the interests of his patients, set up certain appointment days in Rincon because so many children and their parents could not get to their appointments in town. ■

Bula Bonchi



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Mon 24	00:34	06:50	14:53	19:57		6:37	18:46
	-0.02 ft	0.89 ft	-0.25 ft	0.28 ft			
Tue 25	01:30	07:38	15:33	20:43		6:36	18:46
	-0.03 ft	0.87 ft	-0.24 ft	0.33 ft			
Wed 26	02:31	08:29	16:14	21:32		6:35	18:46
	-0.04 ft	0.81 ft	-0.22 ft	0.40 ft			
Thu 27	03:38	09:23	16:57	22:25		6:35	18:46
	-0.03 ft	0.72 ft	-0.19 ft	0.47 ft			
Fri 28	04:52	10:23	17:40	23:21		6:34	18:46
	-0.02 ft	0.61 ft	-0.14 ft	0.55 ft			
Sat 29	06:14	11:30	18:26			6:34	18:46
	-0.03 ft	0.49 ft	-0.09 ft				
Sun 30	00:19	07:41	12:47	19:14	New Moon	6:33	18:46
	0.62 ft	-0.06 ft	0.38 ft	-0.03 ft			
Mon 31	01:17	09:04	14:11	20:04		6:32	18:46
	0.69 ft	-0.11 ft	0.31 ft	0.02 ft			
APRIL	02:13	10:17	15:33	20:58			
Tue 01	03:07	11:19	16:44	21:52		6:32	18:47
	0.74 ft	-0.17 ft	0.28 ft	0.05 ft			
Wed 02	03:58	12:12	17:43	22:44		6:31	18:47
	0.80 ft	-0.26 ft	0.28 ft	0.10 ft			
Thu 03	04:46	12:59	18:32	23:34		6:31	18:47
	0.80 ft	-0.27 ft	0.29 ft	0.11 ft		6:30	18:47
Fri 04	05:31	13:41	19:14			6:29	18:47
	0.78 ft	-0.26 ft	0.30 ft				
Sat 05	00:20	06:13	14:19	19:52		6:29	18:47
	0.11 ft	0.75 ft	-0.23 ft	0.31 ft			
Sun 06	First Quarter	01:04	06:52	14:54	20:26	6:28	18:47
	0.11 ft	0.71 ft	-0.20 ft	0.33 ft			
Mon 07							

REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

Studios available at Hato near the beach,
Kaya Utrecht 25. \$459 from 24 of March,
now \$650, -- all included also no airco there.
Call 780- 1433 or 796- 2529. Ask for
Monique

House for rent in Sabadeco: 4 Bed-
rooms/2.5 Bathroom/roof terrace/view to
the sea from all sleeping- and living rooms/
Appliance include: Dishwasher, Stove,
Oven, Microwave, Double Door Fridge,
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Features: open kitchen with Ikea kitchen, two
Porches, Pool, Double garage, separate Guest
house (subletting possible).US\$2200-per
month available from 1.April.
**Please call 00599 796-4753 or
drbrigittekersting@gmx.de**

Unfurnished House for rent at Belnem, 2
bedrooms, 1 bath, large kitchen livingroom,
front and backporch, airconditioners, ceiling
fans, garden with dripsystem, lots of privacy.
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**Around the end of March
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**Need English-Dutch or D-E transla-
tion of (legal) letters, essays, ads,
etc? Contact Bob and Karen
(professor/attorney and language spe-
cialist) at 780--2173 or
bobgilmour40@gmail.com**

Letters to the Editor (Continued from page 9)

IT HAS TO BE AN EPIPHANY

Dear Editor:

By golly, it occurred to me, as I attempted
to enjoy a quiet time recently, over a fine
epicurean repast, how much nicer it would
be if I didn't have to space my conversation
between boom box cruisers, idiot scooters
and immature operators of insignificant
mopeds fitted with stinger exhaust sections.

For those not familiar with the term,
"stingers" are added to the exhaust line of a
small, under powered machine to add a
sense of power to an otherwise insignificant
machine.

Not far off the need to compensate some-
how for the inherent erectile dysfunction
experienced by some men of advanced age
but uncommon in children that seem to be
preoccupied by this sort of thing - I suspect
that Darwin's natural selection will continue
to eliminate, by selection - the least accept-
able portions of the script.

But it occurred to me that since the *polite*
(police) have acquired 30% of the available
parking area in the shopping/dining district;
and since the polite take great pride in show-
ing their presence while the tour boats are in
port?

Of course they have quadrupled the ranks
but still have a problem solving a household
burglary... well?

Well, wait for it, Just possibly, the strong
constituency of the Bonaire *polite* could
manage to set up a couple of chairs on Kaya
Grandi (wouldn't want to cause the officers
to stand too long) the officers might be able
to curtail some of the "cruisers", "druggies",
"wheelers", "steelers", "street idiots" and
generally reduce the unacceptable features
of Kaya Grandi - maybe go a long way to
eliminating the unacceptable garbage pieces
from the area.

Oh, and by the way - the high octane po-
lite may appreciate that tourists frequent
Kaya Grandi on a regular basis

I certainly hope the concept doesn't keep
them up at night. Thank you.

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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 **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.

BANK

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

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

BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too.

If you are a regular Reporter advertiser your listing will go here-FREE

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.**

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.

ON and IN the WATER

BHM Bonaire Hydro-test & Maintenance offers repair of Scuba Equipment, dive tank hydro testing pressure tests with computerized accuracy. Pickup and delivery too.

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.

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, Dushi Shoes on Kaya Grandi, open now.

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

VanEps Property Management B.V./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 above or underwater 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. 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.

RETAIL

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

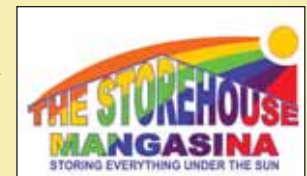
Jewel of Bonaire has custom made jewelry that complement Bonaire's outdoor oriented activities in addition to a great selection of watches, and precious metal items

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.



SHIPPING

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?**



SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

Bon Bida Spa & Gym World Class fitness and health facility- Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.

SUPERMARKETS

BonDiGro— Cooperative discount super market offering low prices and friendly service. Just opened.

TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, 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. Souvenir mugs available.

VARIETY STORE

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

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)

A Safe Place For A Teen

A LONG-TERM-STAY HOME FOR YOUNGSTERS WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS (STICHTING PROJECT)

“We opened the home on June 1st, 2012, for the target group of youngsters, 12-18, with behavioral problems. We started with two girls and six boys and it’s still like that. We have space for eight children and one crisis shelter.”

I’m talking with Chelendra Elizabeth, family counselor at Foundation ‘Stichting Project’ and Hassana Winklaar-Paula, team leader.

“Our foundation was set up in 2004 when we started an after-school-care program in Nort di Saliña’s community center.

We’d opened a practice learning center in the middle of town where we got children between 9-12 with behavioral problems who were assigned to us by the schools. Our goal was to get them back on track so that they would fit in in the regular schools again. Subsequently we also took in children from SGB high school. But in 2010, RCN – the Dutch government - started with EOZ (Expertise Center Educational Care) and then SGB High School had to register troubled children with EOZ.

What happened was that we got fewer children than before. Also, EOZ created a special transition class for the problem children from the elementary schools. So it happened that we got fewer children from the elementary schools as well. Nowadays SGB high school and EOZ run the ‘Rebound

Class’ together at Jong Bonaire.

I’ve worked for Stichting Project,” Chelendra says, “since 2005, but in January 2010 I started to work as a family counselor. Only then it became clear what was really going on in the home situation of our children. In many cases the environment was not safe, there was no structure and there were no rules. There was abuse and frequently children would be moving from one family member to another. Then Mick (Schmit), our director, decided to establish a long-term stay home for the children – something he’d always wanted.

Nowadays there are three homes for children on Bonaire: Rosa di Sharon, Kas di Karko and us. The children come to us through Youth Care where they first organize a case consultation with the key partners (including the management of the three homes) to see which home is best for the child. If it’s decided that the child is going to stay with us then we - Mick, Hassana and Chelendra – will discuss if the child will fit in with us considering the other children, their safety and the safety of the group leader. And we look at the contraindications: at the child’s IQ or whether the child has a psychiatric issue, because on Bonaire we cannot help a child with psychiatric problems. He or she has to go to Holland or Curaçao.

We do work together with a child psychologist and a child psychiatrist from Youth Care, but we also have our own orthopedagogue, Herman Schnitzler.

When we decide that the child can come to live at our home then Chelendra passes the

decision on to Youth Care and a conference is set with the child and the parents or the care takers and both of us. When the child enters the home it immediately gets a mentor – one of the group leaders.

For the children who come here the most difficult things to deal with are rules, structure and authority. They don’t accept authority. At our home we work with the Forsa Method: cooperation, trust, responsibility, a daily schedule, structure and rules, programming and safety. The children attend the regular elementary schools and high school and they also get the chance to follow an apprenticeship at Landhuis de Tuin (a part of our foundation), where they can work in the greenery or at the restaurant.

We’re working with seven group leaders, an understudy, one team leader and one family counselor. A group leader works three shifts and each one of them has their own mentor child. When the children first come to live here they are not allowed to communicate with their family. We never take brothers and sisters. We can house only one child from a particular family. After two or three weeks they can talk on the phone with their parents/care takers and then, depending on their progress, they can have family come over to visit once a week for one hour on Saturday. If that goes well – if




Mick Schmit, Hassana Winklaar-Paula and Chelendra Elizabeth

the child and the home situation are improving - the child is allowed to go home for one day during the weekend. That’s how we try to make it possible for the child to return home again.

Most of the time a child starts changing after three to six months. All in all a youngster stays here about one and a half years. The majority of the parents try their best to get their children back. They look for a house, they find a job and create more stability for themselves and the child.

Being the family counselor,” Chelendra says, “I guide the families in the process and supervise the individual conversations the children have with their parents. I also stay in close contact with the ambulatory care provider or family guardian. On a regular basis we hold consultations about the situation of the family and if something bad happens in the family we get together to discuss how to move on.


(Continued on page 17)



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Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Monday 24—Free Reef Fish Identification Seminars at CIEE on Kaya Gob Debrot, 6:30-8:30 pm. REEF expert fish id'er, Kim White, lecture for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling.

Friday, March 28- "Rastro," the second Aruba and Antilles Art Expo. (from Bonaire, artists Jackie Bernabella & Nochi Coffie) Opens at the Plaza Resort, 8-10pm. Other days during business hours. (rescheduled)

Friday, March 28- "TL AfterParty," at BSF Time 00.00-03.00 Four DJs Tickets \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at door. Tickets at Karel's Beach bar and Plazita Limena or WhatsApp to Cliff Borger

Saturday, March 29
—Open Day at Rancho Washikemba, from 9am-1pm. Contact Bregje: bregje@rancho-washikemba.com or 788-8668 / 786-7321

-Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei. Local art, plants, seeds, music, lectures. More on page 5

Sunday, March 30 – Mountain Bike Race – Call Frank at DeFreewieler 717-8545 for details.

Saturday, April 5—Monthly Farmers Market at Kriabon, 8 am –1 pm. Fruits, vegetables, plants, chickens, rabbits, food and drinks. Kriabon is on Kaminda Yatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School. More on page 3.

Sunday, April 6—36th Annual Kontest di Fli (Kite Contest). Fabulous, imaginative wild kites compete from Bonaire and Curaçao. At the field behind Kooyman, 8 am-6pm. For the whole family. Snacks, drinks, music. Sign up at Bonaire Book Store, 717-6586. More on page 3

Saturday, April 12—Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) presents a Passion Concert of Bach by cellist German Marcano and pianist Hans Faassen, at the Chapel Fundashon Mariadal, Kaya Gerharts, 8 pm. More page 18

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entrance.

Saturdays

•**Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 10 am-4 pm, in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

•**Parke di Libertat Bazaar.** Flea market tables to rent \$5. Used items for sale, 9am-2pm.

•**Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month,** at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 1 pm.

•**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 on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 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. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** 2:30pm, 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

• **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

•**Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina.** Free house rum when you buy a coke.

• **30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire,** 12 noon. Bonaire Basics. Donation. Call 786-6416, email: info@bonaireyoga.coim

Fridays

•**Happy Hour party at Bistro De 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

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 Cruscita 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; Maryt-

jin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. 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.

Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ) Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. ndt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com

Contact **The Reporter** if you want your event listed. Email Reporter@bonairenews.com, 786-6518

Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Tuesday	25---Mar. -	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200--- 1900	3200	Princess Cruises
Saturday	29---Mar.	<i>DELPHIN</i>	0800--- 1300		Passat Kreuzahrten
Tuesday	01---Apr	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800--- 1800	2446	Celebrity/ RCCL
Tuesday	01---Apr.	<i>Thompson Dream</i>	0800--- 1500	1132	Thompson Dream CL
Sunday	06---Apr	<i>Maasdam</i>	0800--- 1700	1258	HAL
Tuesday	08---Apr.	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800--- 1800	2446	Celebrity/ RCCL

A Safe Place (Continued from page 15)

Now and then a child actually returns to his or her parents and I will do the aftercare. Then, subsequently, the family guardians of Youth Care take over.

It's not very easy to reunite the child with the parents. There are many different reasons, like poverty has dramatically increased after the introduction of the dollar. Often the father is out of the picture and mom is not strong enough. There are parents who use drugs and live ghetto style. Some parents have many children and they don't set boundaries or the mother doesn't have a place of her own and some parents set the children up against each other. There's all kinds of abuse.

When it becomes clear that the child cannot go back home, we discuss with Youth Care what the next step will be. Because if a child is thriving here it should go to a place it can call its own. We always look in the child's network- parents or other suitable relatives. So far, the results are good, because the children who did go home to their parents are still there.

When a child turns 18 they have to leave here, but if there is no follow-up or other possibility for the child they should stay because we cannot throw them out on the street. It's really bad because there are no options on Bonaire for living under guidance after they've turned 18.

I love my job. It is really 'my thing.' I think my work is *hopi dushi* and I do it with my whole heart because if I can help someone and the results are good that makes me happy too. I have very good contacts with all institutions and bodies involved, with the youngsters and their parents and a good relationship of trust for 10 years.

At home I have a son. He's 12, and our

relationship is based on love, a clear structure and understandings and communication."

"Yes, I love children," Hassana says. "I have two of my own and together with my husband we give them a lot of attention. Being a family is very important to us. But the children here are also a part of my life, they hold my heart and sometimes I even want to take them home. But that's impossible, so I try to help them as much as I can. I'm here for them. I've been here since 2008. It was my first job when I finished my studies and I'm still here.

When I look at the present situation on Bonaire and the problems that come up constantly, I am really worried. There should be more activities organized in the neighborhoods and the parents should be educated and stimulated. And when parents decide to have a child they have to really, really want it and realize they are 100% responsible for the child because the basis of a child are its parents.

More homes should be established on Bonaire, but also for younger children as there is a waiting list for them as well.

Our home is subsidized by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in Holland. It takes care of the structural costs, but it doesn't take care of the furnishing or other extras. We can always use donations like furniture for the children's rooms, sheets and towels, but also games, snorkels, footballs, sneakers, stuff like that - stuff that kids like!

For financial donations: Stichting Project at RBC 8400000180007032, Kaya Korona #15. Bic swiftcode RBTBQBN.

■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Bonaire To Explore Sustainable Opportunities



Bonaire Government photo

Bonaire Commissioner Edsel Winklaar; Jan Ebbing, director of the Caribbean Branch Office of TNO (CBOT); Commissioner James Kroon

Last week the Bonaire island government signed a letter of intent (MOU) with TNO Caribbean. *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek* or TNO (CBOT) (Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research) is a nonprofit company in the Netherlands that focuses on applied science. According to its website its mission is "to connect people and knowledge to create innovations that boost the sustainable competitive strength of industry and well-being of a society. Governments around the world are increasingly being set the challenge of stimulating the economy. This requires innovations. Major, complex and spatial innovations are not easy to manage in terms of effectiveness."

The main aims of MOU are:

- The opening of a branch of TNO (CBOT) in Bonaire from which (inter) national knowledge transfer can take place;
- Continuing joint interpretation and implementation to 'Blue Economy' concepts;
- The method of uniting, mobilizing and coordinating/managing local stakeholders in a "Blue Economy;" The interweaving of existing (local) initiatives with a program for "Blue Economy"
- The search for opportunities for cooperation in the various areas of "Blue Economy" with other Caribbean islands, including in particular Aruba (see below) and Curaçao. TNO is already working in Aruba.

An assessment of the ability to realize these goals should be available by early summer. ■ G.D./Press release

The signing of the MOU could be momentous for Bonaire. The island wants to provide more than mainly tourist services. A focus on economic development based on the so-called "Blue Economy Concept," which means applying a self-sustainable approach to future development.

The MOU centers on working together to define economic diversification by assessing factors like environment, energy, construction materials and methods, innovation, agriculture, telecommunications, transportation and logistics.

Bonaire's Deputy for Economic Development Winklaar says, "With this move Bonaire has made a new step towards the diversification of its economy. Doors should open for us so we can get various companies and institutes in Europe in touch in our region through TNO's Caribbean branch office (CBOT). We are very pleased with this new development."

Aruba in collaboration with TNO has developed an ambitious Sustainable Energy Roadmap.



This road map states the goal that by 2020, at a minimum, 50% of all consumed energy should be produced using renewable resources.

The Smart Community Aruba, one of its projects, is an experimental residential area of 20 houses in Aruba with a focus on sustainable living.

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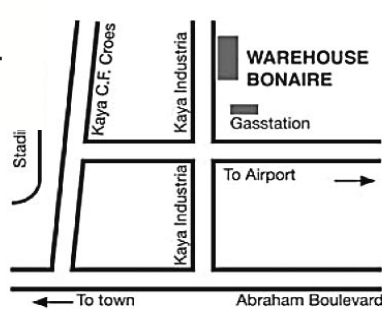


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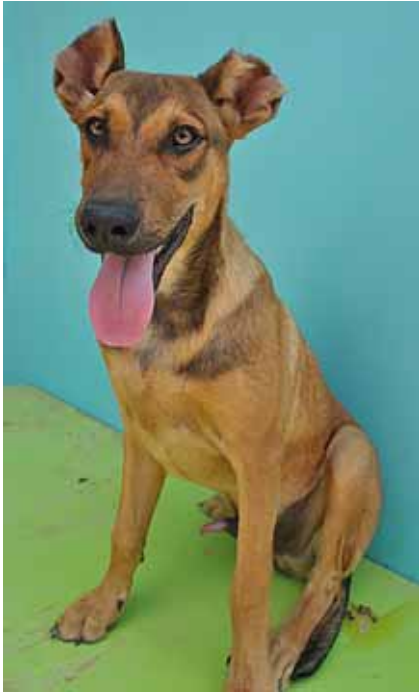
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Pet of the Week

If you think this is a photo of an unusual looking dog, you're right. Sometime during his early life someone clipped poor "Adam's" ears and then abandoned him. A Good Samaritan, thinking he belonged to someone, tried to chase him away from her home. But when he returned again and again she began to feed him. She notified the Bonaire Animal Shelter to see whether someone would claim him. After a few days, when no one did she brought him into the Shelter. Because she was feeding him along with her other dogs Adam was in pretty good shape, but he was covered in fleas.



What a darling Adam is. Even after all this trauma he's very sweet and affectionate and has a sunny disposition. Because he still has his baby teeth the vet thinks he's about four months old (FYI dogs usually get their adult teeth by six months). The flea situation was taken care of, he's been checked out by the vet, wormed, given his shots and now he's ready to go. The dog adoption fee of \$75 includes all this plus sterilization when he's old enough and an ID chip.

You may see Adam at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Their website is WWW.Bonaireanimalshelter.com. They're on Facebook and Twitter too. Check those for up-to-date news of the Shelter. ■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo

Shelter News

Underdog Bonaire is a program designed to train Shelter dogs and give them the skills they need in order to become adopted into and spend the rest of their lives in loving and caring homes. The training is being done by inmates from the Bonaire prison. They will train the canines in basic obedience but will also learn to groom and care for the animals. Not only is the dog getting a second chance, but the inmates are learning valuable social and vocational skills which can give them a new sense of hope that could help them become more productive citizens once they are released from jail. Hopefully, those inmates involved in the program will not return to jail again once they are released.

At the moment Shelter dogs "Pluto" and "Storm" are being trained by Shelter volunteers Martine and Patricia and two inmate handlers. It's the Underdog's third dog-training session in prison. Dogs Pluto and Storm had never been in a kennel and also never in a car, so it started as a real adventure for both Storm, 8 months old, Pluto, 4 months old, and Martine who collected them from the Shelter.

Storm was a little bit afraid to be in the new - prison - environment, but Pluto was happy-go-lucky and immediately liked the two guys who are going to be trained with them. Storm took about half an hour to feel really confident but was clearly happy with the guys. To our amazement the two young dogs were very good and walked next to their inmate handlers as if they had done it a hundred times.

This training program will take three months. More inmates want to participate in the Underdog Bonaire program, so after this training we will continue with another group. ■ Story & photos by Marlies Tiepel



Shelter Volunteer Evelin and Underdog volunteers "Storm" and "Pluto"

Visit the Shelter's Flea Market (Pakus di Pruga), open every Saturday, at Kaminda Lib. Simon Bolivar, across the street from Brandaris Café. It's staffed by volunteers and open from 8 am to 5 pm. All the proceeds go to the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

There is a large selection of books in English, Dutch and other languages, household items, clothes, you name it. You never know what you'll find there—from week to week. We noticed a very attractively dressed woman recently whom we thought had bought her clothes from a fancy shop in the US or Holland ...but no, she said. She found them at the Pakus di Pruga! Go see for yourself. And say a big thank you to the loyal volunteers who make it all happen.

Did You KnowHow your donation to the Bonaire Animal Shelter helps in many ways:
- \$8.50 helps to microchip a pet, \$50 buys a day's worth of pet food, \$450 spays or neuters 10 dogs. ■ Laura DeSalvo



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THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
End of March Early April 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Be aggressive and colorful, and you will get your way. Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. Satisfy your passionate mood. Communication will be your best bet. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't promise to deliver the goods if you aren't positive that you can meet the deadline. Try to convince a good friend to take a holiday with you. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. You will learn a great deal from people with different cultural backgrounds. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. Consider selling your homemade crafts at the flea market. You will also encounter individuals who can help you further your goals. Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your mate could get on your nerves if he or she backs you into an emotional corner or puts restrictions on your time. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Direct your energy into physical entertainment. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. If you've been really busy, try to schedule some time to spend with loved ones. You are best to stick to yourself this week. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Travel will be favorable. Resist overspending on luxury items. Try to be understanding. This will be a good day for research and for sitting down with some good, informative reading material. Be cautious when dealing with foreigners. Your

lucky day this month will be Sunday.
LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Do not trust others with important information. Avoid any hassles. Concentrate on spending time with children. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't count on correspondence to clear up major problems. You may have problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. Uncertain get rich quick schemes will not be as lucrative as you anticipate. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be careful not to overexert yourself. You need to lie back and enjoy a little rest. Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner. You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Plan to visit friends or relatives. Don't shy away from potential mates they want to introduce you to. Changes could be overwhelming. You won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't let children hold you back from doing things you enjoy. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. A lack of support and negativity have been the main problems. You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

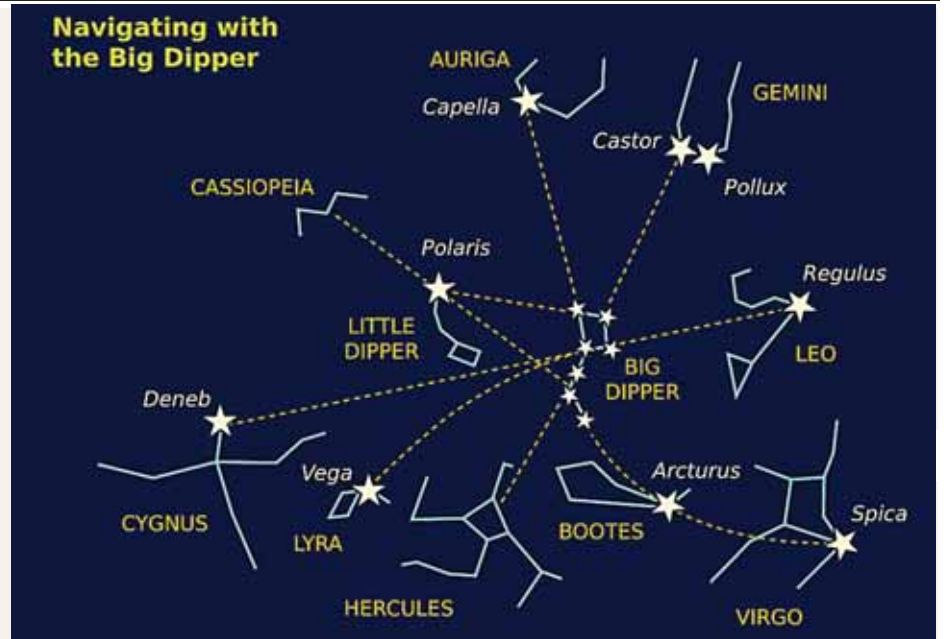
PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Do whatever your mate wants; it really doesn't matter as long as you're together. Strengthen your position among your peers. You may win favors if you present your ideas and include your family. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

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THE BIG DIPPER AND ITS MANY COMPANIONS.



Jupiter

An asterism is a distinctive pattern of stars that is part of one of the larger group of stars that we call **constellations**. The best known and most prominent asterism in the northern sky is the **Big Dipper**. The Big Dipper asterism has been recognized for many thousands of years, and it has many names in cultures around the world. In the United Kingdom, it's The Plough, Charles' Wain (wagon), or The Cleaver. In Holland, The Saucepan. In Finland, The Salmon Net. In Malaysia, The Ladle.

The Big Dipper comprises the brightest stars of the constellation **Ursa Major, the Greater Bear**, which appears upside down with his paws upward on this month's Sky Map. The Big Dipper forms the hindquarters and tail of the Bear, with fainter stars forming its head, legs, and paws. It's a fairly large constellation, of which the Big Dipper asterism is only a part.

The two front stars of the Big Dipper's bowl are known as the "**Pointers**" because they point toward **Polaris, the North Star**. So once you have found the Big Dipper, it's easy to find the North Star. Polaris, in turn, is part of **Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear**, and sits at the very tip of the little fellow's tail. Ursa Minor is also known as the **Little Dipper**, and indeed, its shape more or less mimics that of its larger cousin but on a much smaller (and less bright) scale.

The Big Dipper's handle (the tail of the Greater Bear) is a pointer in its own right. If you extend the arc or curve of the handle, it

leads you to **Arcturus**, the brightest star in **Bootes, the Herdsman**. This gives us the stargazer's helpful phrase, "**Arc to Arcturus**."

Right at the bend of the Big Dipper's handle are the stars **Mizar and Alcor**. Can you see both stars, or do they blend together as one? If you can see them both, then your eyesight is better than mine!

After finding the Big Dipper, then Polaris, look to the left for a somewhat lopsided "W" standing on end. The "W" is made up of the brightest stars of **Cassiopeia, the Queen**. To the right of Cassiopeia is her rather faint **King, Cepheus**, who looks much like a child's drawing of a house with a sharply peaked roof.

The stars and constellations near Polaris are visible almost every night of the year for observers in the Sky Park. However, the orientation of the constellations changes throughout the year and even through the course of a single night as they all appear to rotate around Polaris. The Big Dipper may appear above, below, to the left, or to the right of Polaris, depending on when you look. The position of the Big Dipper (and all the other stars) changes noticeably in as little as a few hours, so it is interesting to note the location of the Big Dipper at 8pm, then check it again at 11pm or later. Instead of being to the upper right of Polaris, the Big Dipper will have moved almost directly above Polaris in just three hours. This apparent movement is due to the rotation of the Earth on its axis. ■ *Bob Berman*

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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