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**B** onaire Island Council elections are set for March 18, 2015. Both citizens and legal residents can vote.

In the last election in March 2011 the UPB (green) Party won four seats, the PDB (red) party three seats and the PHU (white) party of Bijkerk and the MBL (blue) party of Benito Dirksz one seat each. Initially the PDB, PHU and MBL joined in a Red/ White/Blue coalition to govern the island. But in September 2011 the coalition split and PHU's Raphael Santana went independent and joined in a new coalition with the UPB which held together until now.

It's expected that these four political parties will name candidates in the next election. At least one new party, the MPB, led by former island commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe, will also present candidates.

The condition of Bonaire, following the restructuring of the island as a "Public Entity" directly under the Dutch Central Government, is expected to be a pivotal issue.

► On January 1<sup>st</sup> the price of electricity on Bonaire was reduced by \$0.02 per kWh. This reduction was based on two factors: the recent dramatic reduction in crude oil prices and the cutoff of two thirds of the rate support for electricity that had been provided by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs of \$0.04 per kWh. If the Dutch support had not been withdrawn the decline would have been \$0.06 per kWh.

This week a two-day National Consultation on the implementation of the UNESCO project: "Strengthening the capacities of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, Saba and Suriname to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" will be held on Bonaire.

Its aim is to get islanders to become involved in protecting our intangible cultural heritage and establish a dialogue between all stakeholders to provide an overview of the intangible heritage within the Bonaire community.

In 2003, the UNESCO Convention to protect the intangible cultural heritage was established. It's about things like dance, language, singing, crafts and knowledge / use of plants; traditions and rituals that are important to us and want to not be lost. Under this Treaty "intangible heritage lists" are to be drawn up. Bonaire has been involved since 2012.

The objectives of the Convention are to safeguard and secure the continued existence of this dynamic form of heritage; ensure respect for the heritage of communities, groups and individuals and to increase the awareness and appreciation of this heritage at local, national and international levels.

The two-day conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20 and 21 at various locations in Bonaire and is free for anyone who wants to help protect the intangible cultural heritage. Contact Liliane de Geus, phone 565-7171, email: <u>lilianedegeus7171@gmail.com</u> for more details

▶ The study of the effects of the new political structure Caribbean Netherlands is underway. Begun on December 12, 2014, the independent evaluation will start with research. From December 2014 to April 2015, procedures will be evaluated. In April and May 2015 interviews and surveys will be done in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba to complete the data collection. The evaluation committee is due to issue its report before October 10. You can participate in the study though

the committee's website and Facebook page set to be launched this month

The evaluation is to report on the impact of the political restructuring of the Caribbean Netherlands in 2010. The research is focused on three topics:

How well the new legislation is working; the effectiveness of the administration of the islands; the consequences for the people of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba of the restructuring.

▶Bonaire scores a lucky seven in Scuba Diving Magazine's 2015 Readers' Choice Awards with four #1 rankings. For the 22nd consecutive year, Bonaire has maintained its first place position with the #1 Shore Diving Destination.

In the Caribbean/Atlantic region, the #1 rankings received by Bonaire include Best Macro Diving, Best Beginner Diving, Best Advanced Diving and Best Shore Diving. The #2 rankings include Best Underwater Photography and Best Overall Diving. Bonaire also ranked #4 for Best Overall Destination.

For the Readers' Choice Awards, thousands of Scuba Diving subscribers and web users rated their dive experiences on a scale of one to five. Results of the 2015 Awards are featured in the January/ February 2015 issue of *Scuba Diving Magazine*.

► Bonaire can grow in stages to become a major air hub in the Caribbean **between Europe, the US and Latin America.** That is the preliminary finding of a market study by Economic Research Foundation, aviation consultant MovingDot and Air Traffic Control the Netherlands (LVNL) commissioned by the Steering Bonaire International Airport.

That steering committee a few months ago was created on the initiative of former KLM CEO Peter Hartman, Bonaire Governor Edison Rijna and LVNL boss Riemens. Riemens said, "That act jointly in aviation is good for the economic development of the Netherlands. If the Bonaire project is successful, we can also do it in other parts of the world."

► Water and Energy Bonaire (WEB) continues to struggle with electrical power outages. They confirmed that the island-wide blackout which occurred several weeks ago was the result of sabotage. The 10-hour outage was sparked by destruction in the Karpata area of two underground fiber-optic cables that provide the control connection between WEB and the diesel power plant of ContourGlobal.

WEB filed a complaint of suspected sabotage with the Caribbean Netherlands police. The people responsible knew very well what they were doing, according to management member Roy Silberie. "They dug a hole exactly where needed to access the cables and set them on fire." Telecommunication and internet cables in the same location from Telbo to Contour-Global and Bopec were also damaged.

There was another outage two days later due to the sudden loss of power from the wind turbines at Mortin. Power to several neighborhoods was temporarily disrupted.



Bonaire's Island Governor Edison Rijna (above) is a SCUBA diver. He was recently presented with the **National Marine Park's dive tag number 0001** for 2015 by retiring Marine Park Manager Ramón de León. The Governor insisted on paying for his tag like everyone else, however. Rijna also received a lionfish

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As of January 16, new road tax stickers for license plates are for sale at the tax office in Kralendijk during office hours. There are different rates for each type of motor vehicle. It is possible to pay the tax for the first half or the whole year. When paying for the whole year, you will receive a black / white sticker. When paying for a half you get a blue / white sticker.

When paying the road tax, you need proof of payment of the tax for the year 2014 and a valid insurance certificate of the vehicle. You must pay the fees by March 31, 2015 or risk getting fined.

Rates are as follows:

Fuel	Plate	\$/year	\$/1/2 year	Plate	Sticker	
gasoline	b-v	189.94	94.97	8.6	2.25	
diesel b-v		837.98	418.99	8.6	2.25	
gasoline	tx-ab	136.87	68.43	8.6	2.25	
diesel	tx-ab	209.49	104.74	8.6	2.25	
gasoline	bf	136.87	68.43	5.6	1.4	
diesel	z	1,256.98	628.49	5.6	1.4	

#### *Flotsam and Jetsam* (*Continued from page 2*)

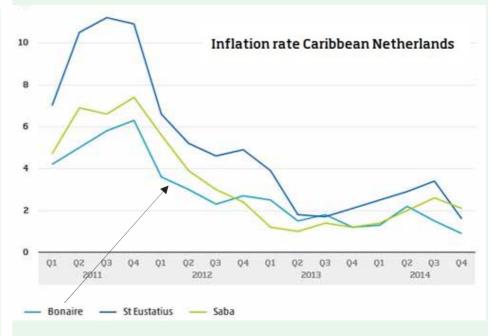
"Zookeeper" and "Elf" harpoon to help keep down the population of invasive and destructive lionfish like many of Bonaire's divers use to contribute to the reef fish conservation effort.

Governor Rijna is looking forward to getting certified as an official lion fish hunter so that he can buddy up with his son, who is a STINAPA Junior Ranger, to scuba dive and search for lion fish together. Although his son is not old enough to hunt the lion fish, he is a certified scuba diver and will be the 'spotter' in this future lion fish hunting team.

The **"Bring Back the Storm Bird"** two-week campaign through Booster.com has ended. The campaign sold 57 T-shirts and raised another \$285 in cash contributions, bringing the total to \$879.17, a great success! See page 14 to find out how you can get a shirt

► It's now the rainy season which increases the risk of contracting dengue fever and chikungunya. Because of the increase in the number of mosquitoes that spread the disease, the Department of Vector Control have been spraying pesticides in the neighborhoods. Both chikungunya and dengue are transmitted by the same mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Preventing the breeding of mosquitoes is the most effective and sustainable way to prevent the illnesses.



► The price inflation rate on Bonaire declined from 1.5% in the third quarter to 0.9% in the fourth quarter. Price developments for clothes and petrol contributed most to the decline. Clothes were more expensive than a year ago, but - on an annual basis - the price increase in the third quarter was much more substantial, resulting in a lower inflation rate in the fourth quarter. Motor fuel prices fell noticeably in the fourth quarter.

Compared to past years, 2014 was lower on Bonaire but higher on St Eustatius and Saba. At 1.5%, the inflation rate on Bonaire over the entire year 2014 was marginally below the level of 1.7% recorded over 2013.

In 2013 the figures rose considerably, but they declined again in 2014 relative to 2013. Food prices pushed inflation up in 2014.

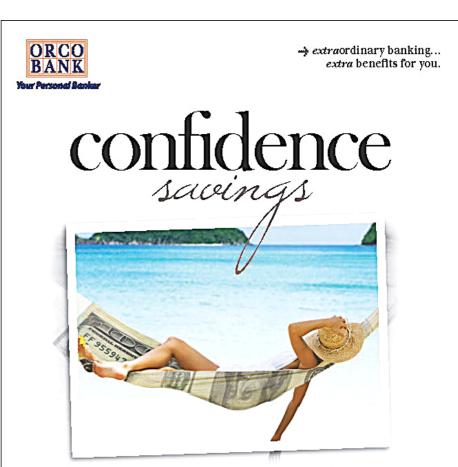
The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito lives in the houses and gardens of people. The female mosquito pricks people to suck up blood that she needs to feed her eggs. Then she deposits the eggs in clear fresh (rain) water. This clear fresh (rain) water is the breeding grounds of the mosquito larvae which hatch into flying mosquitoes and the cycle repeats. Breeding grounds may include buckets, rain

barrels, containers, tires, bottles, bowls, and cups. All of these objects should be removed so the mosquito cannot breed. More information can be found in the information paper Dengue & Chikungunya edition 2014 of the Public Body Bonaire. Available from the Department of Public Health, Kaya Neerlandia 41, phone 717-8839.

(Continued on page 13)



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# **On The Island Since... November 21, 2012 - Kenneth Frederick Arends**



667 was born on Aruba and L one year after my birth

my parents and I moved to Curacao. When I was seven, my mom and I returned to Aruba where I spent my childhood and teenage years. When I was 17 I bought a one-way ticket and left with KLM Netherlands. I'm still very glad for the Netherlands. My father had to undergo open heart surgery in Utrecht, the Netherlands, but before I left – I'd bought my ticket already - the doctors told him that there was nothing they could do for him anymore. He returned to Curacao but I went to the Netherlands anyway. I stayed for three weeks, then I went to Spain where I lived with friends for three months. In the winter I came back to the Netherlands.

I had to go back to school and I'd also been called up for the army. I only had one relative, an uncle, a brother of my father, with whom I stayed the first three weeks in The Hague. Then I went to live with a good friend in the eastern part of the Netherlands, in a city called Arnhem. I was never homesick for the islands - I loved it there

Not much later I moved to Amsterdam, where I started and finished my HEAO (Higher Economic and Administrative Education). The moment I arrived in Amsterdam I went to live in the Canal District where I spent 21 magnificent years; it was grand!

In five years I did two legal studies, Dutch law and notarial law, at the University of Nijmegen (in the eastern part of the country), but I kept on living in Amsterdam.

Antilles. I kept my house on the Amsterdam canals, but I worked for three years on Aruba as a candidate notary at a well known about the business.

In 1999 I went back to the about that decision, because in October 1999 a new law came into effect for the notaries, and if I hadn't been working in the Netherlands as a candidate notary before the enactment of the law, I would have fallen under the new regulations. The consequences would have been that the vocational training and acting as a substitute would have been differ- be appointed. ent. Also, being back in the Neth-

and graduated in 2003 with the official certificate. As a matter of fact, from the moment I arrived in the Netherlands till the day I left office where I learned a good deal for Bonaire, I've educated myself continuously.

> To be able to become a notary you have to grow in the position, because it comes with a lot of responsibilities. Therefore, in the Netherlands it's a requirement that you do postgraduate studies after graduation while you are working, which I have done. Furthermore, you have to work as a graduate candidate for a minimum of six years under the auspices of a notary before you can

As a candidate notary I had

# I work a lot; it's the only way to get a starting office on track and make it successful."

erlands changed the perception I had of notary ship, because when I graduated I thought - considering the past of the Aruban notary ship - that an appointment would quickly lie ahead.

In the Netherlands I worked as a candidate notary for various

independently signed a big contract with a well known Dutch bank to take care of foreclosure auctions for a certain region. I did that for quite a number of years. That portfolio, along with my company portfolio, led me to set a notary - me - because after all, I nomination in motion. And then came the vacancy on Bonaire.



Kenneth Arends at his desk

In June 2012 I travelled to Bon- ing and it keeps you sharp. aire for an exploration expedition and a meeting with the business community on the island. Then I went to Aruba for a trade mission from Bonaire to Aruba. Subsequently I returned to the Netherlands where I evaluated one and the other. In September I flew to Bonaire to set up my organizational structure, to look for a location and make the necessary arrangements. Again I went back to the Netherlands where I made the final preparations to leave permanently. And on 12-12-12 I opened my office in the office units of Harbour Village.

In the beginning it was really tough, because I didn't know a single soul on Bonaire; I had no family, no friends, no business relations; absolutely no network! The first Christmas I sent everybody a personal wish by mail and I invited a number of businessmen to visit my office, because how can you throw a party if you don't know anybody? Soon enough I was invited everywhere and I made good use of it because it was an opportunity to meet everyone I had not met yet. But the island is small and it didn't take long to meet a lot of people.

Well, the fact that now there is more than one notary on the island is of great importance in view of the situation after 10-10-10. The clients can no longer swerve to Curacao, but still they do have a choice as to which notary they want to see. In addition, it is also good for the island that they've got a very experienced have more than 19 years of experience and I am from the islands, I speak the language and I know the culture. Furthermore, I have a high-level European experience as I've had an indispensable supervision in Holland. My office provides services in all notarial jurisdictions and in all special and difficult cases. It's a wonderful job, because every day is different, different people who want something different. Not one case is the same. It's fascinat-

Now, after two years, I am well established and I love it here. When I come back from a trip, I get into my car and enjoy the tranquility tremendously. But I am not travelling that much anymore because I have to build up my business. I work a lot; it's the only way to get a starting office on track and to make it successful. However, I do go to Europe regularly; it's a delightful getaway for me. I have my house in the center of the city of Amsterdam and combined with my life and work on Bonaire, it's just the perfect mixture!

As much as I love Bonaire and its tranquility, I am also a passionate art lover and collector. I am crazy for fine arts. I have a broad interest in paintings and sculptures. I own numerous pieces of art of Dutch artists like Gerti Bierenbroodspot, Jits Bakker, Ineke van Dijk and Hetty Heyster, but in my house in Amsterdam I also have a sculpture of Jean Marianne Bremers. Many of the artists I know personally. In Amsterdam I used to walk to work through the streets with all the art galleries, a splendid stroll to begin the day. I am also a big fan of musical and ballet; I used to travel at least once a year to New York to see minimally one ballet performance and one musical. Due to lack of time I haven't done that anymore for the last couple of years, but I will pick it up as soon as possible.

For Bonaire I wish it will become the pearl of the Caribbean for it has all the ingredients; together we have to work towards it and of course I will contribute my

I travelled a lot during that time and I saw a great part of the world: Australia, Japan and China and the Middle-East. When I began to study I worked for a prominent accounting and tax consulting firm and immediately after I graduated I returned to the

prominent notary offices in Haar lem. Amsterdam and in a municipality called De Ronde Venen. At the offices I worked in general practice which is important because you learn all the jurisdictions a notary needs to be able to manage. Also, I was a substitute for other notaries for longer periods of time.

During that time I completed the three-year vocational training

I applied and the letter went to the Supreme Court of Aruba, Curacao, St. Martin, Bonaire, Statia and Saba and to the Ministry of Security and Justice and on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, I was appointed. In the meantime I had moved to another location in Amsterdam and the appointment was sent to my previous address, so I found the letter some weeks later, hahaha!

part to make it happen."

Story &

Kooistra

photos by

Greta



#### Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015

# Cover D

S ince the private company Bon Re-cycling now limits itself to the collection of motor and cooking oil, car wrecks and scrap, Selibon, Bonaire's waste management company, has taken over the major part of the waste separation management on the island.

Rumors were spreading over the island that the idea of recycling waste was being abandoned, but this has proven to be incorrect.

According to Selibon's director, Mr. Rudsel Leito, Selibon is still cooperating with Bon Recycling regarding recycling autos, oils and scrap, but for other waste, Selibon has taken the management into its own hands.

Three smaller recycling machines have been taken over from Bon Recycling- a press container, a grinder and a shredder- make an urgent appeal to the people not and they will be installed at the recycling center at Kaya Industria. Subsequently, carton, plastic and paper will be handled there. The end products - packets of paper, carton and plastic - will then be shipped abroad in cooperation with Bon Recycling.

A temporary arrangement has been made for the recycling of batteries which will be shipped to Holland. Furthermore, Selibon is consulting a local company about the processing and recycling of glass.

A concrete slab will be poured at the landfill where a sorting hall will be con-

structed as well as an oven to burn biochemical waste. Money is available, provided by Holland. The construction tender procedure ( for bids) is ongoing and handled by the OLB (Island Government) who to give the contract to a construction company.

Selibon Director Leito is optimistic: "We hope to realize the construction this coming March. Furthermore, the operational costs are taken over by Selibon and



for now we have the money to do so. Also, we have the knowhow and the people to make it work.

I would like to take the opportunity to to give up on waste separation and to continue to bring their waste to the recycling center at Kaya Industria (next to Warehouse Bonaire). Soon we will start a campaign to inform the people what is actually happening with the separated waste. And in April we will organize open days at the Landfill and at the recycling center at Kaya Industria, accessible to everyone, to witness the process of waste separation personally. For the island and its future it is very important if we all work together and make recycling a matter that concerns us all." Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Selibon employees say, "Keep Recycling."



# **Picture Yourself With The Reporter in** Times Square, New York, USA



arlon Bermudez from Curacao, in Bonaire since 2000, and Carlos Lopez from Venezuela, in Bonaire since 2003, write, "Please find attached this picture taken in Times Square during our most recent vacation for Thanksgiving. We love Bonaire and its weather but for vacation we prefer some cold. For us New York is the perfect place to go and enjoy this season."

# Borkum, Germa



uan Ramirez who lives on Bonaire and his daughter Elana Ramirez Gomez sent us this photo of themselves on vacation in Borkum, a small island of north of Germany with The Bonaire Reporter.



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Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015

# **Bonaire's Fu**

n the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, the Island Government more formally called the OLB (Public Body of Bonaire) presented its concept of the integrated multiyear plan for the island of Bonaire for the next 10 years

The presentation took place at Jong Bonaire and was open to the public. It was visited by an estimated group of about 50 people.

Ms. Nerry Gonzalez, Island Secretary, started the presentation by giving the public an idea of the vision the OLB has regarding the current position the island has in the Kingdom. She put emphasis on the relationship with



Nerry Gonzalez

Holland by comparing it to an arranged marriage: "Even though the relationship is often labelled as an arranged marriage, in such a situation you should still learn to love each other."

She continued on by mentioning that the well being of Bonaire and its inhabitants are the main focus of the OLB.

The main presentation was given by Mr. Jonathan Jukema, Director of Space and Development OLB. He continued by explaining that the vision OLB has put into the concept is inspired by four themes,

which are: -economic development,

-social cohesion and facilities, -sustainable use and preservation of natural recourses and

-strong governance. The OLB worked

Jonathan Jukema together with the Dutch government to write this concept.

There are many goals the OLB feels need to be achieved in the coming 10 years. These goals are bound to the different themes described earlier.

Some of the goals are: fighting poverty, good connection between different levels of education, healthy neighbourhoods with good care systems, quality tourism, more knowledge of the economy, expanding the transport and hub function of the island, investing in the local agriculture and conserving, restoring and making durable use of Bonaire's nature.

For more substantive information or questions about the concept, emails can be send to; meerjarenplan@bonairegov.com. After the plan was presented there was room for input and questions from the public.

It was obvious that the public was very concerned about preserving Bonaire's culture and nature, while others also ques-



Some of the attendees at the informational session



**OLB** representatives answering questions

cept, knowing elections are coming up.

Also the tremendous growth of the population of the island was brought up, and what this growth means for Bonaire, in relation to the concept being presented. Further on, there was input on how Bonaire can expand its (air) hub function and maritime logistics.

It was very clear that the public has many Story & photos by concerns regarding the goals that were presented and they were more than willing Fleurtje Veldkamp to share their concerns and input, hoping

tioned the continuity of the presented con- OLB will consider these and use them in the final concept of the multi- year plan.

> OLB continued the presentation of the plan by organising different public gatherings where there was more room for de-

liberation on the different themes and their goals.



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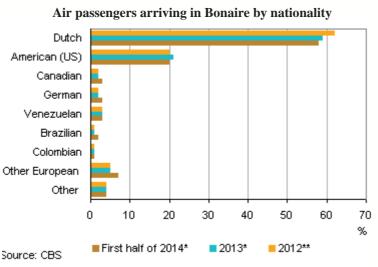
## Interesting Bonaire Facts and Figures

J ust under 150,000 tourists flew to the Caribbean Netherlands in 2012. In 2013 this was slightly more: around 152,000. This number includes both holidaymakers and business visitors. In the first half of 2014, 77,000 tourists arrived at the airports of the Caribbean Netherlands. Most of the tourists came from the US (including Puerto Rico) and the Netherlands (including Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten).

#### **Bonaire Tourism**

On Bonaire the number of cruise passengers (146,000) was higher Source: CBS than the number of tourists arriving by air (131,000). Exact data on the share of cruise passengers that leave the ships are not available, however. In 2012 an average 10,500 tourists per month came to Bonaire by plane. For the whole of 2012, the number was well over 126,000. In 2013 the total number of incoming air passengers rose to 130,500, an increase of 3.5%. Flights came from Curaçao, Aruba, Amsterdam, Atlanta and Houston.

Both in 2012 and in 2013, most tourists came from the US (including Puerto Rico) and the Netherlands. Dutch tourists include not only those from Europe, but also those from the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles: Aruba, St Maarten and



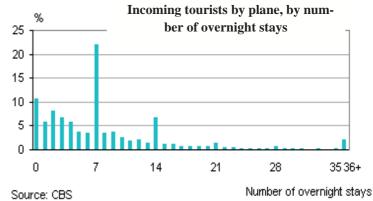
Curaçao. This explains why the figures published by Tourism Corporation Bonaire (*TCB*) for 2006 to 2010 were lower. These figures did not include tourists from St Maarten and Curaçao, for example. Preliminary figures for the first six months of 2014 show a similar picture as in 2013.

## Half of Bonaire tourists stay a week or less

Over half of the tourists who came to Bonaire by plane in 2012 and 2013 spent seven nights or fewer on the island, with the highest peak for seven nights. For tourists who spent at least one night on the island, the average number of nights was nine, both in 2012 and 2013. 12% of tourists flying to Bonaire in 2012 came for just one day. In 2013 this figure was slightly lower: just under 11%.

#### More visitors come by cruise ship than by plane

Many large and small cruise ships visit Bonaire. These cruise ships account for nearly all visitors arriving on the island by sea. The number of cruise passengers is larger than the total number of tourists who fly to Bonaire. However, tourists who come by plane stay on the island longer. In 2012 158,000 cruise passengers visited Bonaire. The average number of passengers per cruise was ap-

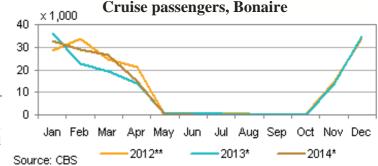


proximately 1,500. In 2013 the number of cruise passengers was slightly lower: 142,000. It is not known how many cruise passengers actually go ashore.

The number of other vessels calling at Bonaire was 880 and 920 for 2012 and 2013 respectively, with an average of three passengers per boat. They stayed for an average 17 nights in 2012 and 15 nights in 2013. These relatively long periods – on average cruise ships stay no longer than one day – is probably due to the fact that Bonaire has a wellprotected marina.

For 2014, this first impression of the number of visitors arriving by boat is similar to that of 2013. In the first half of 2014, approximately 105,000 ship passengers came to Bonaire. The graph below clearly shows that cruises are a seasonal phenomenon: hardly any ships come to Bonaire in the summer months.

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Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015

#### A PROJECT THAT HELPS CHILDREN

n Bonaire only a few projects have a Jlifespan over a couple of years. Food at school is one of the projects that lasts: it has existed since 2004 and is fulfilling the need of children physically by delivering them healthy food. Eating a good breakfast has also effects on the mental aspects and helps children to be more concentrated and get the most out of the education they receive.

#### History

In April 2004 the Rotary Club decided to help children who did not get a breakfast before going to school. Teachers had given them a signal that a lot of children did not get the most out of their time spent at school because they came in on an empty stomach and lacked energy. Rotary organized fundraising and financial assistance by asking companies and AMFO to get involved in the project. When the AMFO subsidy ran out in 2012, Rotary went to the local government (OLB) to ask for support. Luckily the OLB appreciated the importance of the project as it had already proven its value for eight years in a row. Since 2013 the project is no longer part of Rotary but is enrolled in a foundation called VOS (voedsel op school/ food at school). The OLB gives full assistance for the project.

#### What is done?

Schools for primary and secondary education, after-school programs and daycare decide which of the children who attend



Board Members: Tom van den Burgh, Ludwina Lendering, Addo Stuur, and Roosje van der Hoek

their facility could be helped by giving them food on a daily basis. The teachers and people who are involved with the children themselves know best how to choose those who really are in need. The members of the board only know how many children are getting the food, the children involved stay anonymous. According to the estimate provided by the school or care center the Bonaire Food Group prepares the food needed. The organizations themselves take care of the transport which is done by teachers or by volunteers. Within the schools and daycare centers the food is divided into portions per child and given as breakfast or lunch (for the after school program). Usually there is bread, marmalade, cheese, juice, fruit and yoghurt. Some schools pay extra attention to the fact that not every child gets the extra food by making the children aware of the importance of sharing and giving amongst each other. The food is delivered every weekday. For schools it stops during holidays.

#### **Figures and Facts**

The OLB provides \$8878 per month for the project. This is used to pay the Bonaire Food Group for the supplies. The organizations that receive the food are Papa Cornes, Kristu Bon Wardador, Reina Beatrix, San Bernardo, Watapana, Jiwiri, Muchanan Kontentu, San Luis Bertran, Fesbo, SGB and the Rebound project. About 400 meals per day are distributed.

Who are the people behind this project? Board members are Addo Stuur

(chairman), Ludwina Lendering (secretary/ finances), Tom van den Bergh (member of the board) and Roosje van der Hoek (project support). They form an enthusiastic team that really cares for this project. They recently organized an activity day for all the organizations involved to get to know each other better and to exchange experiences.



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Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015



#### **BIKE PATHS**

Dear Editor: It's great that the government made a start with special roads for bikers like we see on Nikiboko South.



But as a biker I notice a great danger on these biker roads.

The danger is that there is **no divider** between the car road and the biker road. So now drivers who want to go fast in busy traffic are passing on the biker road.

**Food** (Continued from page 8) They made an evaluation and want to make more improvements to make sure the to join the board he did so, wanting to do right children are getting it and to make sure the food is healthy. They are proud of the results of the project. Teachers tell them that they see a difference in children who participate: they show less aggressive behavior and are more concentrated.

Ludwina says that when she was asked to join the board she was very pleased. She likes to contribute to things that really matter and she couldn't say no. Addo has known the project for a long time, as he is a Rotary member and followed it from the start. He thinks it is nice to be involved in a project of which Rotary was really proud. He is convinced that this project contributes to the community and helps to reduce the effects of the poverty on Bon-

And I as a regular bike rider have already experienced this dangerous situation a few times by almost being involved in a serious accident if not having to jump from the bike and go off the road.

Not only bikers are victims of this problem. Also people who are walking down the street: mothers with children, older people, kids, tourists and so on. They all are victims of this problem.

And there are drivers who have the awful attitude of drive even faster when noticing pedestrians to let that dirty water spray even harder on those people. What kind of manners do these drivers have and how is it possible that grown ups act like that??

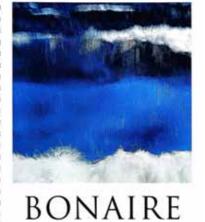
So, bikers, be careful on our bike roads. It's dangerous there. Angliet

aire. Tom got involved in the project while helping out a Rotary member. When asked something back for the island he loves and where he is allowed to live. Roosje has contributed from the start. She supports the project from her company (Coffie and Van der Hoek) and is the only board member who is not a volunteer. She sees the support as part of being an enterprise that wants to contribute to the society. She likes the fact that there is a lot of gratitude for this project by the people who benefit from it.

Want to know more? There is a completely new website made with all the information about the project VOS. You can find it at: www.voedingopschool.org

Story & photos by Justine Verschuur





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2015 FRIENDS OF NATURE FOUNDATION AGENDA

he Friends of Nature Foundation (FNF), a nonprofit organization, has been publishing a beautiful "Agenda" each year for 15 years. The first Bonaire Nature Agenda was printed in 2000 and has been published non-stop every year since. This year it celebrates its 3<sup>rd</sup> Lustrum (3 x 5 years) year of publication. Bonaire Nature Agenda's focus this year is on Rincon

Through photographic and artistic images the agenda presents the Nature Foundation's concern for the conservation of the environment, biodiversity, ecosystems, environmental awareness, harmony between humans and nature. As well, the images in the agenda promote the conservation and awareness of Bonaire's local culture, art and architecture,



The FNF Agenda's publisher: Parisina Malatesta

combined with the amazing and vibrant history of the local population since prehistoric times.

BNA takes into account the guidelines set by other foundations such as STINAPA which advocates the conservation and study of native and exotic species of flora and fauna.

Another initiative of FNF is the Children Painting Contest, a project developed in collaboration with STINAPA, FESBO, Mangazina di Rei, and other foundations on the island. This contest seeks to inspire the children of the island to love and care for nature and culture. The children participate in painting classes and nature walks and receive awards such as the publication of the winning paintings in the agenda.

Taken all together, all aspects revolve around the same concern, which is FNF's main objective: the need to restore a scenario of cooperation and harmony with Press release/L.D./G.D. nature.



condo is situated on the top floor of the stylish apartment







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# Have Arrived the air traffic

rones... Should we be afraid of them? Can they do people harm? Could they help us?

We all have heard of these Military Unmanned Aircrafts one way or another. So, if you did, it was most probably in a nega- mention that it is completely forbidden to tive and violent way.

But there are several other type of drones. The cute ones with the small camera mounted below them which are getting more and more popular every day, everywhere.

Drones come in different sizes and flavors: big, medium, small and nano. Prices are from around \$10 to thousands of dollars depending on what you want to use the drone for.

Drones are "hitting" Bonaire's soil more and more. Tourists bring them to make vacation movies and some local drone pilots use theirs to fly for a hobby or use them as a (paid) service for realtors and others alike.

#### Currently it's officially forbidden to start and land drones on Bonaire

Most of the drone pilots flying on Bonaire are not aware of the fact that it is completely forbidden to fly with drones on Bonaire. "Why?!" In the current Aviation Law BES (Luchtvaartwet BES) there is an article that spells this out. Why, you ask? "There is enough space to fly safely and responsible isn't there?" That's right. The only thing is, that Bonaire's land area is completely covered by a so called CTR. This is the air space that



the airport controls. Furthermore there are three official "prohibited" or "no-fly" zones. Not to fly near the airport.

#### **INVESTIGATIONS OF DRONE REGULATIONS FOR BONAIRE**

Even though the law and additional regulations are understandable, I was not really convinced and satisfied hearing the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment say:"You are not allowed to fly drones on Bonaire because of the limited useable air space (CTR)." So I wrote a letter to our Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Rijna, to ask him to present my letter to the Island Council. In this letter I explained that it is possible to fly drones on Bonaire in a responsible way with applicable regulations.

October last year I got notified that the local legal advisor has taken action in this matter and made contact with the Ministry. They said that the "drone" regulations for the Netherlands have been adjusted. The drones are now seen as "family" of the model air planes. These new regulations are only applicable in The Netherlands. The local legal advisor together with the Ministry will now have to see how to implement these regulations for Bonaire.

MORE THAN JUST FOR FUN Flying drones is fun! However, there are

more interesting ways of using drones.

Think for example about the possibilities for the Police Force to use drones to follow criminal activities from the air. The Fire Brigade could make use of a drone to find the best spot to control a fire. Search and

Rescue teams could use it to find people and/or ani-

mals on locations which are difficult to search from the ground. STINAPA could use drones for research and control in the National Parks. Furthermore drones can be used to deliver post/packages and AED equipment to remote areas, to assist land surveyors, architects, realtors, local TV stations, the press and photographers with their work. Possible educational contributions of drones are likewise endless. Who says that drones are not of social impor-



Package Delivery Drone



A drone carrying heart defibrillator (AED) can be dispatched fast to save lives

tance?!

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN** RECREATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL USE Most of the above mentions are examples of professional use of a drone. However there are differences between flying recreational and professionally: Recreational:

-At all times keep a good vision on the drone and its surroundings.

-Do not use FPV goggles (FPV=First Person View) unless you are with another person that keeps an eye on the drone and its surroundings.

- Only fly at daylight.

- Maximum flight height is 300m.
- Do not fly over populated areas.
- Do not fly over large groups of people.

- Do not fly within a radius of 3km of an airport.

- Do not fly in other no-fly zones unless you have a permit to do so.

(Continued on page 11)



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Drones (Continued from page 10)

However, when you plan to sell your aerial footage and pictures made with the drone and/or use them to sell properties, the Dutch law sees it as a professional use of the drone.

Professionally (before operating the drone):

- Complete basic training in operating and flying a drone and acquire knowledge of the current regulations.

- Present an approved Operations Manual.

- The drone must be checked, approved and registered.

- You must have Aviation insurance.

- Ask for an exemption.

- Ask an additional permit from the local authority.

- Ask permission from the land owner where you are going to start and land the drone.

- Present a so-called Notice To Air Man (NOTAM) to the local Airspace Administrator 5 days in advance.

• Notify the authorities (Governor's Office) 1 day in advance.

After that, the regulations as described in the list for recreational drone-use are applicable with the only difference that you cannot fly higher than 120m (394ft.)

As you can see there are really big differences between the two. As a result, the professional drone branch organization (DARPAS) in the Netherlands wants to see more "user friendly" changes in regulations for professional use. The Ministry of Infra structure and Environment is momentarily busy looking into this.



Even mini drone as small as this can carry a video camera

#### PRIVACY

We all like our privacy without getting disturbed by a drone passing by and taking pictures of (topless) sunbathing moments. Here's where the law on privacy, as described in the Dutch Constitution, kicks in. See (<u>http://</u>

www.denederlandsegrondwet.nl/9353000/ 1/j9vvihlf299q0sr/vgrnbl6ah4zz)

In general the cameras under a standard drone are optimized for just aerial photography and film. So, not really useful for spy activities. There are drone systems though with so-called DSLR camera equipment and zoom capabilities. In such a case we are talking about an investment of over US\$ 10,000. Unless you are a well -paid paparazzi photographer, no other person would buy this expensive equipment just to take pictures of "the girl next door." Even then, you are not complying with the privacy laws and when you're caught a big penalty could await you in court.

Therefore footage/pictures taken of somebody by invading their privacy doesn't say anything about the drone but all



#### about the pilot.

BRANDS AND TYPES OF DRONE Nowadays you can choose from hundreds of brands and types of drones. It's not easy to choose one which fits you. Here is a link that may help you choose: http://myfirstdrone.com/tutorials/buyingguides/want-to-buy-a-drone-5-things-youshould-know-before-you-buy/

#### FINAL WORDS

As started in the intro, should we be afraid of them? No! Can they harm people? When used correctly and with common sense, No! Could they help us? Yes!

At time of writing this article there sadly is still only 1 rule: **It's forbidden to fly a drone on Bonaire.** 

A special call out for drone pilots flying on Bonaire: Please consider that all illegal drone activities may jeopardize current and future negotiations regarding the "Aviation Law BES" on adjusting the regulations for Model Air Planes.

To keep you informed please visit www.facebook.com/BonAerials. ■Jan-Pieter van der Hoek Director / UAV Pilot

#### **Technical Developments**



The selfie, which didn't even enter the public consciousness until the past decade—when just about every cell phone came equipped with a decent digital camera—may soon seem passé. That's because several companies are racing to bring consumers small, camera -toting drones that can follow someone around, recording his or her every move. The same handset you use to take snapshots of yourself will control the distance at which the drone follows you, as well as its altitude and bearing. ■ IEEE.org/G.D.

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Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015

# Green Label At Sea



A fter another year of great success and hard work the Green Label staff had their well deserved New Years trip, this time on the *Aquaspace*. Ap and Agnes, owners of Green Label, had a tremendous year and wish to thank all of their loyal clients and our new ones for all the support in 2014 and to wish everybody a happy and Green 2015. They will continue to try to serve their clients in the best way that they can and hope to see everyone in their garden center or in your own garden. By the end of January Green Label off Kaya Industria will be loaded again with new palms, plants and materials from Holland and Florida.

The Green Label team had a great time on the *Aquaspace*, and saw that Bonaire's underwater world is even more colorful than the one they try to make above the sea every day. Thanks to Edwin and Babette for their great service on board **Press release** 



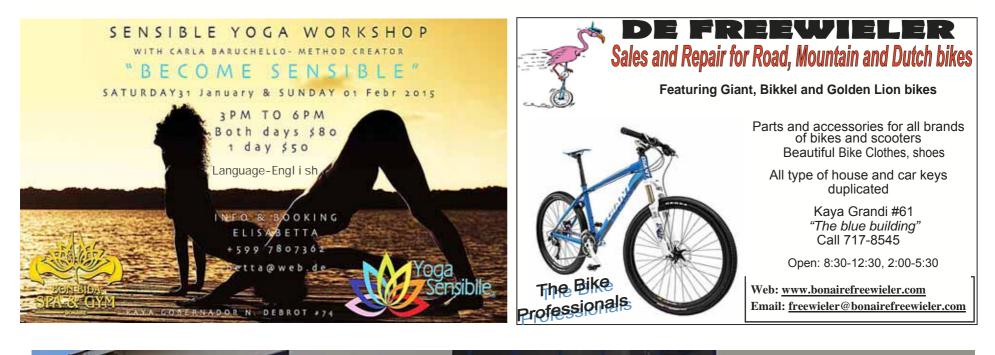
**Pollutants that find their way into the ocean may also find their way into a sea turtle's blood!** These chemicals get into the tissues of the animal and can make the turtles very sick due to various toxins. Studies have been done to see if we can help these sick animals by simply removing them from the polluted water and restoring them to a healthier

lifestyle. After an affected sea turtle spends a certain amount of time in rehabilitation, scientists have found that the levels of toxic chemicals in the turtle's blood decrease significantly. In addition to this, other compounds that the turtle needs to be healthy, su ch as zinc and selenium, increase in concentration. Knowing this information gives us the ability to help some of these affected turtles.  $\blacksquare$  *Allison Frey* 



Allison Frey is a Biology major and Chemistry minor from Texas Christian Uni-

versity. She is studying at the CIEE Research Station in Bonaire for the fall semester and has always loved sea turtles!



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Page 12

C CITURO

CT CHEVROLET

# **Garden?** Just $\bigcirc$

Now's the time for a big cleaning in our yards. We have had and still have a great rainy season and every possible herb, vegetable, wild plant and all types of grass have popped up in my yard. Great! And now I have a big cleaning job to do there too.

But not only is cleaning our yard and garden necessary, but also our body needs such a cleaning. After all that food and the parties we had at the end of the year there's a need to relieve the body of all that stuff and give it a fresh chance to make it through the new year. In a lot of cultures, especially the ancient ones, and religions, one of the highest priorities is to clean the body and mind when the new year starts. It's sometimes called "fasting," and there are different ways to do it.

Important during the fasting time is drinking a lot of liquidabout two liters. It can be water, but also herb teas and fresh fruit and vegetable juices (fresh homemade carrot juice is especially good). But don't mix fruit and vegetables together to make the juice. These days we have a lot of fruit in our yards-coconuts, granate apple, guyaba, appledam, soursop, mispel. So do something with your own healthy fruit and give your body a good vitamin boost.

Giving the body a cleansing is easy to do. You can go all out with different therapies, but you can do it easily with herbs in your yard. And if you don't have them yet, just plant them now while we are blessed with this rain. Here are some herbs and plants to start with.

#### For the Stomach and Intestines

Ginger, aloe, tamarind, noni, tamarin leaves, garlic, yerba hole (photo), basil, wild oregano which grows here (photo), mint, whole seeds like cumin or sunflower seeds. You can make a fresh tea with all these herbs. Just put some of it in a pot, pour hot water over and let it stay 20 minutes. Add some honey if you like.

You also can make juice from some of them like from noni, aloe or ginger. Iced tea is also nice made from tamarind leaves. Or you can add others to your food like tamarind seeds, garlic, ginger, basil or mint.

#### For Fevers, Colds or Influenza

Hot lemongrass tea with ginger, lemon, mint and nutmeg helps the body fight the above. If you don't have all the ingredients to make a great tea, just make it with what you have, but the lemongrass is necessary.

#### For the Skin- Nice Things To Try

A body scrub can be made from Bonairean sea salt mixed with chopped lemongrass, basil and some coconut oil. Mix it all together, save it and you can use it many times. When showering, rub your skin gently with this herbal mix and rinse it off. In many ways aloe is also great for the skin, especially for itchy skin, burns, or wounds. Aloe grows all over the island

A nice facial mask is the watermelon skin. Just take the green part, slice it into pieces, put them on your face, take a rest for about 20 minutes. Then rinse the face gently with cold water. See how soft and smooth your face is. You also can clean the skin with the

chopped pieces mixed with honey and small seeds like cumin women who just gave birth. Boor maanzaad. (maw seed) Just rub it gently over your face and the dead skin comes off.

#### For Hair

An aloe "mask" is great for the hair. Just rub the jelly of the chopped aloe into your hair once a week and let it stay awhile. Then rinse and look how nice and healthy your hair looks.

#### For Itchy Skin

The korone la birgen (Latin: Passiflora Foetida) (photo) grows everywhere .Make a tea from the winding plant. Put it gently over the itchy part or just shower with it and let it dry by itself. I heard from people here and also from the well known Diana Verris that it's a great help for the skin. People here know it, so just ask for it.

Coconut oil is another goodie for the skin when it's very dry and irritated. Also for baby's skin it's great. Just fresh coconut oil made by a local from your own dry cocos in your yard. Coconut oil is very good to cook with too and healthy for the body.

#### For Sleep

For the mind a good rest is very important. After all those party nights we should give our brains some peace and rest too. Tea made from soursop leaves and/or passion flower leaves and flowers is excellent. Just pour hot water over some leaves, add some honey and have a good sleep until morning.

The last plant I want to mention is **basora pretu**. (photo) It grows everywhere as a wild plant and

does a good inside cleaning for naireans know about it, and if you are interested just ask what the plant looks like and plant it in your yard. Ask locals how to use it or let someone make the remedy for you.

You can have all these plants in your yard too. Just look for them. They are native so they grow very easily.

So I hope that there's something good for everyone to try and if you're happy with it, just plant it in your yard – always a goodie close by.



Basora-pretu Good forwomen who gave-birth



Korone La Birgen

Story & photos by Angliet . Nature lover

(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 3)



Many parts of Bonaire have been plagued by flies. Selibon. the island's waste management company and operator of the landfill waste disposal area, thinks it may be partly due to the cadavers of dead animals at the landfill. The landfill is being inspected and measures taken to locate the cadavers and cover them with soil. The public is advised to separate meat scraps and animals from their other trash.

Governor's party ► The traditional annual Governor's New Years Party on



Ebola protection Employees of the Ambulance Service and the hospital's Emergency Room (ER) in Bonaire were given training in dealing other contagious infectious diseases by expert Helen Dogtrom from the Netherlands, who has gained experience in West Africa. An isolation tent and special protective suits were made available by the Dutch Ministry of Public



Oregano

Mountain Bikers A six-ride MTB Clinic for nov

knowledge of the participants are taken to a higher level. Aspects such as, brakes, turn, balance, correct posture, obstacles, but also of course going up and down to be treated. All this under the motto 'fun and safety.'



Yerba Hole

January 6 was very nice and relaxed. A good crowd of people showed up at the Governor's home. with suspected cases of Ebola and There were beverages and snacks, music and the Maskarada group were there too with a show. The party was planned from 7 to 9 pm but at 10 there were still people there. The Governor personally welcomed people at the door and later he gave a small speech, thank- Health, Wellbeing and Sports. ing everyone for their presence.

ice mountain bikers in collaboration with De Freewieler bike shop under the auspices of Xtreme Sports Bonaire Foundation begun in November is near completion. The objective of the MTB Clinic is to promote mountain biking in Bonaire and make it safer. Participants have their own bike and some experience and are in good condition. During the training, the skills and

**Just two months away.** The most significant volunteer project of Bonaire-5th Anniversary of Bon Doet. Be sure to participate. G.D.

Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 19- Feb. 2, 2015



# Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sunrise	Sunset
	12:59 AST	22:15 AST						
Mon 05	0.94 ft	-0.16 ft				Full Moon	06:58 AST	18:24 AST
	13:43 AST	22:53 AST						
Tue 06	0.87 ft	-0.16 ft					06:58 AST	18:24 AST
	14:25 AST	23:25 AST						
Wed 07	0.79 ft	-0.14 ft					06:58 AST	18:25 AST
	06:33 AST	08:44 AST	15:06 AST	23:50 AST				
Thu 08	0.37 ft	0.36 ft	0.72 ft	-0.12 ft			06:58 AST	18:26 AST
	06:31 AST	10:36 AST	15:47 AST					
Fri 09	0.43 ft	0.37 ft	0.64 ft				06:59 AST	18:26 AST
		00:11 AST	06:42 AST	12:01 AST	16:29 AST			
Sat 10		-0.10 ft	0.50 ft	0.35 ft	0.56 ft		06:59 AST	18:27 AST
		00:30 AST	06:57 AST	13:12 AST	17:12 AST			
Sun 11		-0.08 ft	0.57 ft	0.31 ft	0.48 ft		06:59 AST	18:27 AST
		00:47 AST	07:17 AST	14:15 AST	17:57 AST			10.00.00-
Mon 12		-0.07 ft	0.66 ft	0.25 ft	0.40 ft		06:59 AST	18:28 AST
<b>T</b> . 40		01:04 AST	07:41 AST	15:13 AST	18:42 AST	Last	07 00 A OT	40.00 A OT
Tue 13		-0.06 ft	0.74 ft	0.18 ft	0.32 ft	Quarter	07:00 AST	18:28 AST
Wed 14		01:23 AST -0.06 ft	08:08 AST 0.83 ft	16:07 AST 0.11 ft	19:30 AST 0.24 ft		07:00 AST	18:29 AST
wed 14		-0.06 ft 01:43 AST	0.63 II 08:39 AST	17:01 AST	0.24 IT 20:21 AST		07.00 AST	10.29 AST
Thu 15		-0.06 ft	08.39 AST 0.91 ft	0.05 ft	20.21 AST 0.17 ft		07:00 AST	18:29 AST
Thu 15		02:08 AST	09:14 AST	17:53 AST	21:17 AST		07.00 A01	10.23 7.01
Fri 16		-0.06 ft	0.98 ft	-0.01 ft	0.12 ft		07:00 AST	18:30 AST
		02:37 AST	09:54 AST	18:43 AST	22:22 AST		011007101	101007101
Sat 17		-0.06 ft	1.03 ft	-0.07 ft	0.08 ft		07:00 AST	18:30 AST
		03:13 AST	10:37 AST	19:32 AST	23:38 AST			
Sun 18		-0.04 ft	1.05 ft	-0.12 ft	0.08 ft		07:00 AST	18:31 AST
		03:58 AST	11:24 AST	20:18 AST				
Mon 19		-0.01 ft	1.05 ft	-0.16 ft			07:01 AST	18:31 AST



## Help restore Bonaire's sailing past

You can by buying Stormvogel T-shirts, bottle "cozies" and bumper stickers. Already available at Budget Marine and the Zazu Bar and by next week, the Harbour Village Marina office, the Beach Hut and Kant'i Awa will also be selling the products too. Be one of the first to have a Stormvogel T-shirt.

All profits go directly to the project. The 100% cotton Ts are available in stunning color combinations and in all sizes for women and men, and cost \$22.50.



## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter Celebrating 21+ years of publishing

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

16 Flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao Divi Divi Air Reservations 24 hours a day Call (+5999 839-1515)



The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher; Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor - Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com Published every two weeks

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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. The office is 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.

#### 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.

#### **HEALTH CARE**

Best Care Logistics provides everything necessary for people who are disabled or sick, including prostheses, dietary supplements, furnishings, mobility equipment, diabetes aids, hospital beds, oxygen therapy, optical & hearing aids, contraceptives, home aids, communication, and more

Nature's Discount has a complete selection of vitamins, supplements, herbs, sports nutrition, body care and natural foods.

#### LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

Best Cellars has one of the island's widest selection of spirits including

#### **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.



Bobbejans- Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

#### 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.



La Balandra

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

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

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.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



#### 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/FITNESS

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. Open all day and Saturday too. New location across from Warehouse

#### **TOP Supermarket**—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.





'hard-to-fins" brands. In addition there is an exceptional assortment of wines, tobacco products and everything needed for a great party.

#### **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. **NEW**– Drone photography

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#### MADE ON BONAIRE

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

#### WATER TAXI

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



## SS HUNDED Z

#### **CLOSE-IN EVENTS**

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

**REGULAR EVENTS** 

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

#### **Saturdays**

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

•Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei-Last Saturday of the month, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon

•Last Saturday of the month - donate foods and household items to Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire) from 9:30am-2pm in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

•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

#### <u>Sundays</u>

•Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai - Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

•Kunuku Arawak - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am-6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

#### **Mondays**

• Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour-9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. \$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5. 786-6950-Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

•Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar. The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book Reef Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

DAY		se Ship Schedule	CAPAC-	
DAY Monday	<b>DATE</b> 19-01-15	NAME Mein Schiff 1	<u>ITY</u> 2114	LINE TUI CRUISE S
Monday	19-01-15	Carnival Liberty	2984	TBA
Tuesday	20-01-15	Thompson Celebra- tion	1150	Thomp- son ream L
Wednesday	21-01-15	Noordam	1920	HAL
Wednesday	21-01-15	Aida Luna	2194	Aida Cruises
Saturday	24-01-15	Seabourn Legend	208	HAL
Wednesday	28-01-15	Carnival Liberty	2984	TBA
Friday	30-01-15	Maasdam	1258	HAL
Friday	30-01-15	Legend of the Seas	2435	RCCL
Sunday	1-02-15	Royal Princess	3600	Princess
Monday	2-02-15	Mein Schiff 1	2114	TUI CRUISE
Monday	2-02-15	Explorer of the Seas	3114	RCCL

tat, Call Habitat at 717-8290 or Dee at 717-8529.

#### **Wednesdays**

•Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour-9am. See Monday for more information.

• 30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. Donation. Call 786-6416, email:

info@bonaireyoga.coim

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

- Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation tours of their Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and best of all it is led by local guides who are eager to share their knowledge of Bonaire and are donation based. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill before :30 pm and bring good shoes as it's "off road." Alternatively you can book a private tour through Flow Bonaire info@flowbonaire.com Phone: +599 788 4636.
- 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)

#### **Fridays**

•Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour-9am. See Monday for more information

#### **BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS**

Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842

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. 717-4200or788-2819 or

peejeesee@gmail.com Lions Club meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

**Protestant Congregation of Bon**aire: (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

Karnaval Events in January 24—Tumba Festival– Children's 28-Activities for Queen, Prince, Pancho—Children's 31—Tumba Festival Bonaire

#### Karnaval Events in February

7- Children's Karnaval Parade-Rincon

8-Children's Karnaval Parade-Kralendijk

14-Karnaval Grand Parade-Rincon

15-Karnaval Grand Parade-Kralenkijk

16 Karnaval Monday-legal holiday

Jan. 22-24— Bonaire International and Local Fishing



Tournament.

#### Saturday, Jan. 31

-Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, more. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon.

-Sensible Yoga —also on *Sunday* Feb 1 – See ad on page 12

Saturday, Feb. 7—Kriabon Farmers Market, 8am-1pm. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, plants, homemade jams, chutneys, fts, animals, more. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School.

#### pm in Papiamentu, 717-8332.

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

• 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 every Monday when she's onisland at 8 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habi-

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

Chichi i Tan Museum. Step into the past-a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays. 10am-3pm. 1st Sunday of month, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated.

church.) Contact; Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:00 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

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 mornings10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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Aries: 2015 will give you a chance to stabilize your professional and personal growth. First half of the year will be a light time for you, but be prepared for a sudden chance of growth and prosperity. One should try to stay away from the legal hassles. If you are in property, speculation or machine manufacturing business, you must be very careful while dealing with it.

Taurus: Your ruling planet is Venus. The best way to live life in 2015 is to let yourself free and see what you get in life. Nothing can go wrong. First half of 2015 will see you moving slowly towards your goals, relationships and career growth New ventures and marriage might be in cards. July and November will be your fruitful months. The new year positive and determined. will also give you chance to explore new places.

Gemini: Mercury being the lord of your zodiac, you will find this year little difficult. The enemy house is very strong and my belief is that you should be very careful of your competitors and office colleagues Try to stay away from such issues. Learning from your past mistakes is very important. Second half of 2015 will offer you a sigh of relief. Buying a new car or investing in property will be a good idea in the last quarter of 2015.

Cancer: The lord of knowledge and services is placed in your sign with all the best possible resources. This will give you a kick to start off the year on a pleasant note. Life is not always negative; sometimes it takes time to show better results. Be it a new business, investment in existing business or a new job, everything is ready to be served in your plate. Be ready to see a new destination. Media and glamour industry may interest you.

Leo: Nothing can beat you but small issues. Look ahead, no need to go back and solve your past issues. You have a new way of life with "star" support this year. Investments outside of your birthplace should be looked at with a positive mindset. All the business dealings should be considered seriously as you may have to deal with some crooked people in 2015. This is the year of achievements for you.

Virgo: 2015 will be a comfortable year for you as Jupiter will support you on your personal and professional front. New relationship will bring you happiness. You will enjoy the best of knowledge and professional stability. When given an opportunity to meet new people or explore new desination, you must take it and go. Create an expense sheet for yourself and prioritize your expenses.

Libra: It's going to be very expensive year for you since your sign is still under the influgood place to make friends.

ence of Saturn. Spiritual and religious deeds need to done routinely. Expenses will increase and to cover them up you need to work smartly. People will appreciate your work and you will be recognized for your abilities. But don't get carried away. Opportunity will knock your door from April to November. Scorpio: You are a fighter and you don't hesitate to accept challenges. You have been fighting for your growth and balance between your personal and professional life since 2012. First half of the year may be turbulent in your relationship or married life. Financially, you will be much sounder than what you are now. The best part of this year is that even in most difficult times, you will be very

Sagittarius: A new relationship is waiting to enter your life; this is nothing but luck, which will smile on you. First quarter is the best time for you to start a new venture or business; all the auspicious activities can also be performed during this period. This year, there will be great opportunities to change your profession, so do not hesitate to take it up. New avenues for extra income will come from your existing profession. More than thinking, you need to act on the situation.

Capricorn: Are you ready to see the light this year? Capricorn was suffering from the bad influence of many planets but all that will change in 2015. Trust your gut feeling and move on to achieve your goal. Make a big start at the beginning of the year as nothing can put you down. Future planning is very important for you. Big opportunities, travel, new business ventures, legal victories, family expansion and professional highs will be the high points of 2015 for you.

Aquarius: Speculation will be a key factor in your financial growth. Work on your fitness and keep yourself up-to-date. This time, your personality will do magic on others. Stay away from critical diseases or lifestyle-related issues. This year will begin with you getting rewarded for your work. Jupiter's influence will give you an opportunity to accomplish all your goals efficiently. Finances and personal life will be stable.

Pisces: You need to be careful about work pressure and personal commitments. For Pisces, the time is not really favourable as of now. You may not get recognized or appreciated for your efforts at workplace, but try and be patient. Financial difficulties are indicated, however you will be able to manage it well. Social visibility will give you strength to overcome the negative feelings, so join the best club and fitness centers. This will be a



#### JUPITER

f your favorite planet is **Jupiter**, The Sky Park has a show for you. Jupiter is in such a great location for viewing right now. It's the largest planet in our solar system. Jupiter at its biggest and brightest in just a few weeks

Around 9pm, any night this week look toward the east, you'll see Jupiter above what looks like a backwards question mark. These are the stars marking the head of Leo the Lion. To be sure you've found Leo, simply look to the northeast and you'll find the four stars that mark the bowl of the big dipper.

Using Megrez and Phecda, the two stars opposite the pointer stars, shoot an arrow from north to south, and you'll land smackdab on the head of Leo. Jupiter is the bright, non-twinkling light just above the head of Leo the lion.

Jupiter is not only the largest planet in our Robert Hooke both noticed a large red solar system, but its gravity is so strong that it's sometimes referred to as the solar system's vacuum cleaner. Jupiter's gravity attracts nearby **asteroids** and other small solar system bodies, and it has been known to dramatically change the orbits of inbound comets, which can shorten or lengthen the amount of time it takes for the comet to orbit the Sun. In July 1994, fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collided with Jupiter, providing the first direct observation of a collision between two solar system objects.

The planet Jupiter has been observed in the sky since antiquity. The ancient Romans named it after the king of their gods, whom the Greeks referred to as Zeus.

Babylonian astronomers have records of Jupiter dating back to the 7th century BC. In only one night, you can actually see the his book, The Almagest, Greek astronomer Claudius Ptolemy used Jupiter's motion with respect to the Earth to refine his earthcentered model of the solar system. By doing this, Ptolemy showed that Jupiter took actually spins faster at the **Equator** than it almost 12 years to make a complete circuit of the sky, which we now know as the amount of time it takes Jupiter to orbit the Sun.

In 1610, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei studied Jupiter using a telescope and is credited with discovering the four largest moons of Jupiter: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. The motions of these moons around Jupiter provided Galileo with an



example supporting Nicholas Copernicus' view of a Sun-centered solar system, because if you look at Jupiter and its moons, they do look like a miniature version of our solar system.

Astronomers Giovanni Cassini and spot on Jupiter during their telescopic observations in the 1660s. This spot, affectionately called the Great Red Spot, is so large that you could fit the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars inside it.

Speaking of size, as planets go, Jupiter is enormous. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit over 1000 earths inside it, and it has over 120 times the surface area of the earth. In more down-to-earth terms, if Jupiter were the size of a basketball, Earth would be about the size of a small marble.

Jupiter also spins very fast. Of all the planets in the solar system, Jupiter has the shortest day, lasting only 9.8 hours. Which means that when Jupiter rises at sunset during the winter months (when the sky is dark for more than 12 hours), in the course of entire surface of the planet.

This rapid spinning has caused Jupiter to take on an M & M shape and because Jupiter is not a solid body, Jupiter's atmosphere does at the poles, making the clouds form the stripes we've come to know and love.

Lastly, of all the planets, Jupiter has the strongest and largest magnetic field. The Juno space probe is on its way to Jupiter right now to study the planet's magnetic field, and, believe it or not, the solar wind causes this field to extend away from Jupiter to almost the orbit of Saturn.

Dean Regas & James Albury





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# **Shelter News**

#### SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL **Dirk's Story:**

eet the new member of the Animal Shelter family: One eyed, white fluffy, brave Dirk.

We met this special guy two weeks ago, when a nice lady rescued Dirk. He was neglected, starving, limping and had a very dirty coat covered with lice. Totally exhausted, he ate a bowl of food and lots of water and slept for the following two days. When he woke up we could examine him and decided to just give him special care and lots of TLC which he appreciated very much. Every day he is doing better, showing us he is enjoying life again by giving a lot of affection

Even though he is blind he tries to do his best in class, learning new behaviors by using his smell and hearing. After all that happened to this special four-legged guy in the past, animals luckily live in the present and Dirk didn't see or hear No evil and will be a happy dog again!

Would you like to help Dirk and support the Shelter Bonaire?

- Your donation helps in many ways:
- \$8.50 helps to microchip a pet
- \$50 buys a day's pet food

- \$450 spays or neuters 10 dogs

Visit our website or Facebook page and donate online! http:// www.animalshelterbonaire.com https:// www.facebook.com/ **AnimalShelterBonaire** 

#### MORE SHELTER NEWS AND TIPS

Tips for taking care of your dog:

#### **Practice Reproductive Control**

Spaying or neutering is the best option for your pet and is also free on Bonaire. Call the Shelter-717-4989 - for information and to make an appointment

#### Provide a Protected and Clean Living **Environment for your Dog**

Shelter from the sun and rain, as well as good hygiene, are basic to a quality life.

Feed a Bowl of Food a Day and Always Have Fresh Water Available

Maintaining optimal hydration is important for health and energy.

#### Have your Pet Examined by a Veterinarian on a Regular Basis

Your veterinarian will provide you with the information on vaccination schedules, deworming and external parasite control. Contact your veterinarian if you believe that your pet might be ill, injured, or if something just doesn't seem right. Your veterinarian is the expert on keeping your





dog healthy. Work as a team with him or her

#### Provide Ample Opportunities to Exercise

Make sure your dog gets the regular exercise needed to enable it to be fit. By being in shape, your dog will be more capable of participating in the activities that it enjoys. If you don't have the time to exercise, enrich your dog's environment so it can entertain itself.

#### **Communicate With Your Dog and De**velop a Relationship

Dogs are social creatures and they need to interact with their owner. Ouality time will help you get to know your dog and understand particular needs that it might have, as well as enhancing your ability to recognize early signs of an illness that could be developing. In addition, time spent in developing a relationship will help prevent many undesirable behavioral patterns.

#### Train Your Dog to Follow the Simple Commands

Puppy and dog training classes can be very helpful. The better your dog is at following basic and necessary commands, the greater the chances are that your dog will live a safe and long life. Set your pet up for success and keep training sessions short and positive.

All the animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire say thanks to the caring volunteers who make all that written above happen at the Shelter every day.

For more information call: (599) 717-4989 or e-mail: info@animalshelterbonaire.com Or you just want to visit or become a volunteer pass by The

Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a, telephone 717-4989. Story & photo by Natalie Petersen

isit us at our new and modern salon. Call for an appointment or just walk in.

Services for men and women



N elly has lived at the Animal Shelter Bonaire her entire life...literally....she was born there! In May 2013, Momma Nora was dropped off very pregnant, and gave birth the next day. Her mom and brothers Nick and Nelson were adopted but Nelly is still waiting for her forever home. It is hard to believe that this sweet and loving cat has been passed over. She is definitely NOT a "nervous nelly." She is a calm, beautiful, affectionate and playful cat.

Now almost two years old, Nelly's favorite activities (when there are no humans around) are snuggling with other cats for a "sunspot' nap or playing "chase" with a stuffed mouse. If a human happens to be around, head bumps and belly rubs are very welcome. As an "older" cat, Nelly's personality is already developed and you know exactly what you are getting when you take her home. She gets along famously with other cats but is perfectly happy to amuse herself on her own until you come home. Nelly is a perfect fit for any household.

Nelly is a small cat, about six pounds, with or check out their Facestunning green eyes, beautiful tabby stripe markings and a precious white chin. She is healthy, sterilized and vaccinated and would Jane Madden-Disko love to have a home of her own. She's been



waiting her whole life!

Please pass by the Shelter to visit with Nelly and her Shelter mates. The Shelter is located on Kaminda Lagun 26, visiting hours are 8am to 1pm and 3

to5pm, Monday through Saturday. Tel. 717-4989 book page and Animal Shelter Bonaire.



#### Aletta's SEMPER KONTENTU **Goat Cheese**

is traditionally handmade on the island of Bonaire. Available at main local supermarkets. "Aletta's Look for Semper Kontentu Cheese" on your restaurant menu. Goat



Meet our goats, see the milking & cheese making. Refreshing ice tea & cheese tasting included!



Mo | Wed | Fr Adults Kids <12yrs.

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after Road to Rincon beyond Gibbs footballfield at Tras di Montagne 1st dirtroad follow white stones after on your left "Semper Kontentu" sign on your left hand side

semperkontentu.wix.com/goatcheese www.facebook.com/SemperKontentuGoatcheeseBonaire

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# Word on the Street

Offers items that cannot be confirmed that are being discussed "on the street"

ajor changes at Sunset Beach at the traffic circle in Hato. Heavy equipment has completely leveled a very large area next to Den Laman condominiums. Along the beachfront all the brush, scrub and dirt mounds have been leveled and only the large trees, palm trees and dirt remain. There has been much speculation as to what is happening there, particularly on Facebook. Some of the more interesting comments: "I had heard that the area is divided into three areas: two hotels and a measly strip lengthwise so that the general public can still get to the water"; "Nope. it is a public beach/park with picnic tables and BBQs, palapas, drinking water and toilets. Accessible to everyone...."; "Eden beach owners to build a new resort there.";"Apartments and a public beach, refurbished with permission from Stinapa."; "Beach, just only beach with no commercial activity, no f\*\*\*\*\* cruise ship tourists." Bula was curious and passed by on Friday, January 16 and spoke with the heavy equipment operator and asked what was happening, hotel? apartments? According to him, he is making a "playa publiko", a public beach, open to everyone and was coming back on Saturday to spread beautiful white sand all along the shore line. Bula's take on the new layout is that the large leveled area next to Den Laman will serve as a parking lot for the beach and that the sandy beach will be extended further inland and vehicles will

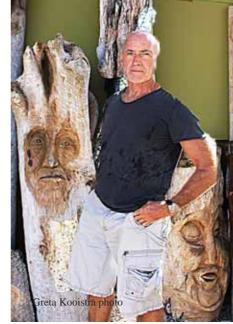
no longer be able to drive along the sea front. Is it a coincidence that elections are near>

• Word on the street is that a new Brazilian style restaurant will soon be opening at the old Casablanca restaurant spot.

• The government has long been advising that new traffic laws will be introduced on the island sometime in 2015 if everything goes as planned. According to local newspaper EXTRA, one law that will NOT be introduced is banning automobiles with the steering wheel on the right side of the car. These have become quite popular in Curacao and Bonaire as they can be purchased much cheaper than left hand drive cars, and so a law banning them was of concern. Biggest complaint of the Bonairean right side drivers is going to an ATM drive through or bank or trying to park at the airport. The new traffic laws will allow the right hand drive cars on island.

• InselAir added Aruba-Manaus to its destinations and acquired its seventh MD (this time from American Airlines) last week. The Curacao based carrier has 17 planes in all and will add more aircraft to its fleet this year to grow from 22 to 26 and add more destinations by the end of 2015. The plans include Havana; Cali and Bucaramanga in Colombia; San Juan in Puerto Rico; and Quito in Ecuador. ■Bula Bonchi





good reason to stop by the Tax Office (*Belastingdienst*) downtown is to see the amazing wood sculptures of Don Seaver. These sometimes bigger-than-life-size faces evolve out of Don's creativity and his ability to discern the direction the piece itself wants to become. The exhibit is free and open during Tax Office opening hours.











Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor Phone: 717-9181 Eye Exams on site

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# Spacious home with two porches and full grown garden.





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