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BONAIRE The REPORTER BES Island News Too

February 2-16, 2015 Year 22, Issue 4

Be Our
Valentine

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Seeing Sunspots At Sundown

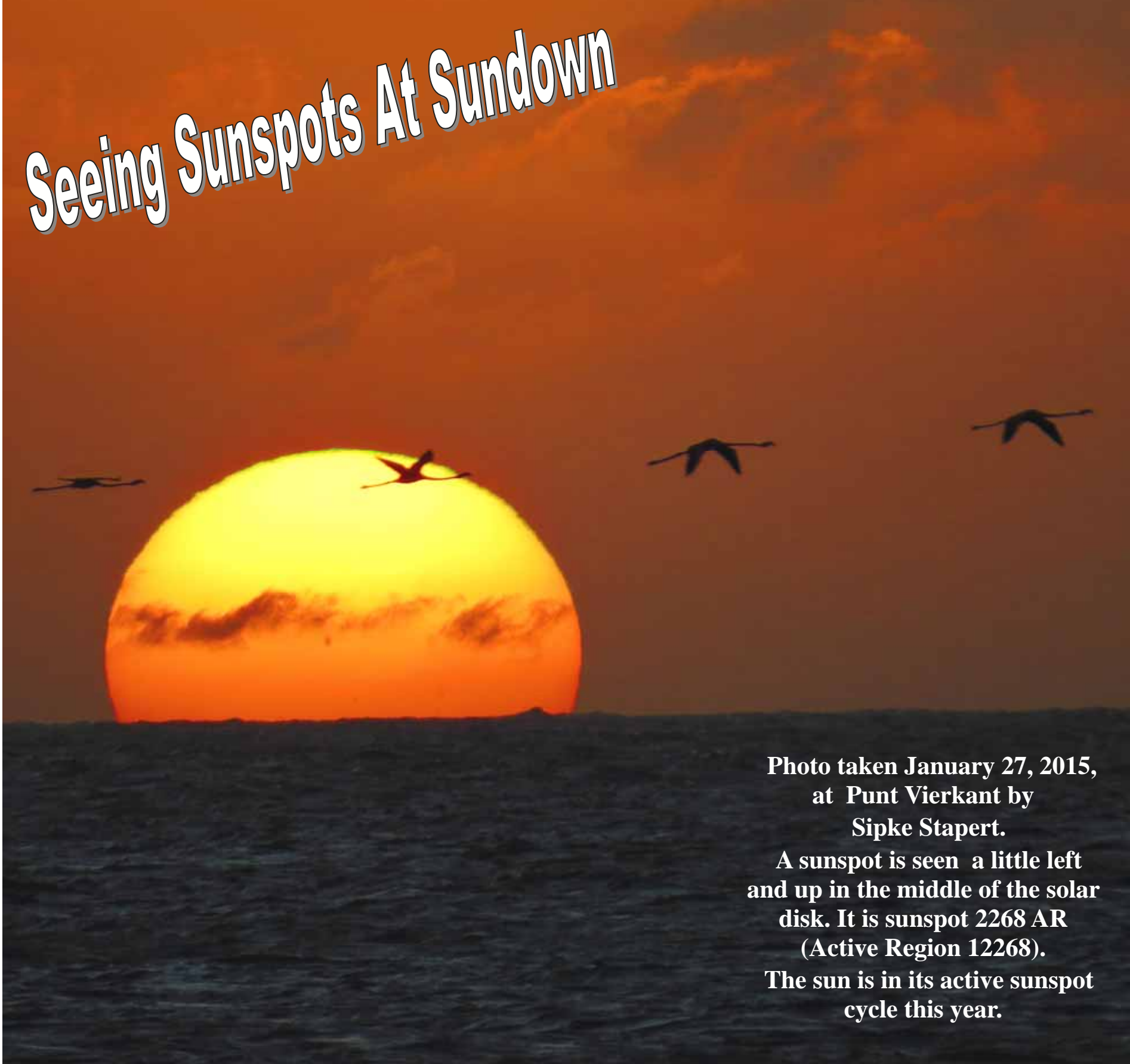


Photo taken January 27, 2015,
at Punt Vierkant by
Sipke Stapert.

A sunspot is seen a little left
and up in the middle of the solar
disk. It is sunspot 2268 AR
(Active Region 12268).

The sun is in its active sunspot
cycle this year.

Randvoorwaardenkaart

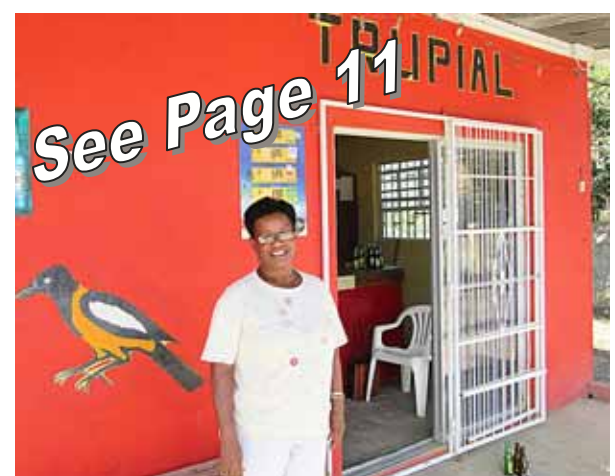
Legenda

- Commercieel hotel, resort, huuroplevering, winkel, openbaar gebouw
- Maximaal 12m gestreepte 15m bouwhoogte
- Locatie A
- Locatie B
- Locatie C
- Zichtlijnie met het water van belang
- Maximaal bebouwingsvoornemen
- Openbaar parkeren
- Openbaar strand
- Openbaar strand met privéstrand
- Openbaar strand met privéstrand
- Openbare functies
- Mogelijk te bouwen op te werken
- Mogelijke omringing Locatie C
- Kaartgrens

Locatie Sunset

See Page 7

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"Aruba style" MPB Party HQ at Mentor



Sifranan di Kriminalidat
Yanüari - Desèmber 2014



Island Council elections are set for **March** so expect to see a blooming of color all over Bonaire this month as the political parties step up their efforts to attract voters. Look for red, white, blue and green flags everywhere.

► **Public consultations on rules based on the proposed Electricity and Drinking Water Law for the BES Islands has started.** The government is looking for input on their law covering drinking-water quality, the reimbursement for excess environmentally sustainable (like wind and solar) electricity that users feed into the grid and consumer protection, including compensation for disruptions and rules on disconnection policy. The laws are part of the general draft Law on Electricity and Drinking Water, which is now under discussion in the Dutch Parliament. These draft rules are now available to the public in Dutch and English on Website: www.internetconsultatie.nl/regelsElektriciteitEnDrinkwaterBes. Reactions may be sent to this website until March 10. If you have ideas be sure to submit them. They've made it easy.

► **Caribbean Netherlands Labor Inspection Caribbean officers on Bonaire used their authority to shut down construction activities at a building site on Kaya J.N.E. Craane in Kralendijk.** The main reason to stop the construction was the fact that there was immediate and grave danger for the employees. The site was very poorly protected against falling from heights. After the activities had been halted, the contractor immediately started corrections. A day later the measure was lifted. Compared to European Dutch construction practices many projects on Bonaire may be unsafe. The Labor Inspection Office reckons that orders for the suspension of work may be given more often in the future.

► The top officials of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Corps held a press conference at police HQ to present the island's 2014 crime figures. The presentation disclosed that Bonaire had more vio-

lent offences with 318, with five major cases including the double murder on January 23, 2014. The number of violent robberies decreased from 51 to 39, while theft and burglaries were up. Break-ins at homes went down in the second half of 2014, supposedly because a notorious burglar left the island. There were 48 drug incidents, in which drugs were found 38 times. In 16 cases drugs were intercepted at the prison. There were eight cases of selling drugs.



► **Bonaire Governor Edison Rijna and Crown Representative Gilbert Isabella** step aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* that tied up for a few days in Kralendijk.

► Happily, Museum Bonaire is finally coming out of the storage container and going into a proper building— see page 3. **However, that building is the one that was used as a local art gallery showcasing island artists. With so much local talent it is time for a new Kas di Arte to open.**

► **Heel prick screening of newborn babies was begun on Bonaire on January 1, 2015.** Later this year, St. Eustatius and Saba will follow. Bonaire's Public Health Department and the San Francisco Hospital of the Mariadal Foundation worked together with the Dutch Ministry of Public Health, Wellbeing and Sports VWS and the Centre for Population Research of the National Institute for Public



Baby heel prick test now routine

Health and the Environment of the Netherlands RIVM.

Heel prick cards with the blood of the newborns will be sent to the Netherlands and screened for 17 diseases. The neonatal screening, offered to babies shortly after their birth, aims to trace rare, mostly genetic diseases. Timely treatment can prevent or limit severe damage to the physical and mental development of the child.

► **Prison Tourism is not only a feature of Bonaire—a new bigger prison is under construction-** but will be expanded in the European Netherlands. This summer, up to 242 convicts will be brought from Norway to the Netherlands to serve out their sentences in a Dutch jail, junior justice minister Fred Teeven told parliament on Thursday.

The prisoners will not necessarily be Norwegian. "It could be a Pole, Latvian or Lithuanian with a Norwegian prison sentence," Teeven said. The plan to bring in foreign prisoners is one of several measures introduced by Teeven to try to improve prison service finances. Belgium already places some of its prisoners in Tilburg because of its shortage of jail spaces.

Bonaire will most certainly entertain prisoners from the other BES Islands and perhaps from the entire Dutch Caribbean as well.

► **WILLEMSTAD--The Meteorological Service of Curaçao ("Meteo") will soon be getting a new weather radar** that enables local forecasters to detect bad weather earlier for the ABC islands. Hopefully it will restore public access to the radar information previously available via the Internet.

The existing radar is obsolete and now so old that spare parts are difficult or impossible to get. The new radar accurately predicts rain areas, lightning, tornadoes and turbulence, but can also identify areas where hail is expected.

► **Correction:** In the last issue of *The Reporter* (Jan. 19-Feb. 2) on page 6, in the article, "Bonaire's Future," there was a photo said to be of **Jonathan Jukema. It is actually Frans Booi.** We are very sorry for the mistake, especially since Frans is such a well known icon on the island.

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► **Join BON DOET: Bonaire's biggest volunteer effort.**

NGO Platform Bonaire and Oranje Fonds are proud to invite you to join the 5th edition of BON DOET on March 20 and 21. The other Dutch Caribbean islands will also have their DOETs too. Every citizen is invited to roll up their sleeves for (part of) a day at a foundation of their choice.

Each year BON DOET sends a huge wave of positive energy reverberating throughout our island, leaving a massive impact on our foundations and everyone involved. More than 1,350 volunteers from all walks of life tackled 66 service projects at 54 organizations in every neighborhood on Bonaire in 2014. If you have an idea for a project you can get a cash subsidy for supplies and certain other support. Pass by the NGO Plataforma Boneiru office at Kaya Grandi 52C for forms and to sign – up. Call 717-2366 for more info.

► **Attention: Chocolate Lovers:** There's a new book just out by Bonaire artist-writer-cookbook author, **Helen Dovale—Chocolate Recipes to Die For—A Guide for Chocolate Lovers.** Helen

has gathered the best chocolate recipes from her own files and others' and even from her family's recipes in the early 1900s. Each recipe has been tested and voted on by a select group of lucky "tasters." There's more—chocolate history, trivia and unique ways to serve it. (Editor's Note: It's even been proven lately that chocolate can help prevent dementia.) It makes a very much appreciated hostess gift too. So pick up several copies when you shop. **Chocolate Recipes to Die For** is for sale for \$10 at Penny Lane, Flamingo Bookstore, Bona Dea, Bonaire Affair and Interiours. See the ad on page 7.

► **Budget Marine held their End of Month Raffle** at the end of the fishing tournament. The **winner is Anna Bassols** from Valencia, a frequent visitor to Bonaire. **Congratulations on winning a set of Icom VHF Radios!** To win monthly prizes all you have to do is go to Budgetmarine.com and sign up for the Bonaire newsletter. They draw the winner from those addresses. Next month you could win binoculars! Good luck!

► **A great new class schedule begins February 2 at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.** Participate in Spinning, Abs, TRX, Pump, Yoga, Zumba and more, plus numerous exercise machines and personal training are available. Rates are reasonable and geared for locals and seasonal visitors as well. See the ad on page 18.

► **Don't miss the Classical Music Board Bonaire's (CMMB) next concert on Saturday, February 21, at 8pm** in the charming and acoustically endowed little San Francisco Hospital chapel on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. Performers will be famous

► *Maggie Kaiser Booi writes:*
It appears that in February sometime the **Museum Bonaire will finally be coming out of its overheated container** and into the restored building formerly known as Kas di Arte. The building does not have lots of room for the museum because the offices of SKAL (Department of Culture) and storage take up many of the rooms. However, we have hope that much of the original exhibit is still intact and that it will be a pleasant surprise when it finally opens. The temporary director, Papito Thomas, has pushed to have things finally happen – and so – in Bonaire fashion they are happening. NAAM (The National Archaeological - Anthropological Memory Management) who is also responsible for what happens to this museum will be around to help.

Thankfully, the old historical Museum Bonaire building on Kaya Julio C. van der Ree 7, Sabana, is being restored by a private party and could also become a museum. We are grateful that this building is being rescued from becoming just one more beautiful, old, historical heap waiting to disintegrate on the island of Bonaire.

The old historical Music School, now fully encased in a new building project in Playa, will become a museum also. This one has already hired an archeologist and it will be interesting to see what part of the history of Bonaire they most emphasize.

It appears that we are going from a museum-less Bonaire to a *Museumplein*.

BONAI will be opening its WWII *Tanki Maraka* trail exhibit in May sometime. I have it on good authority that this will be quite a beautiful and informational trail.

Magazina di Rei has a great project going also. You can see the informational display when you visit their site. It looks to be very ambitious and interesting. We wish them well.

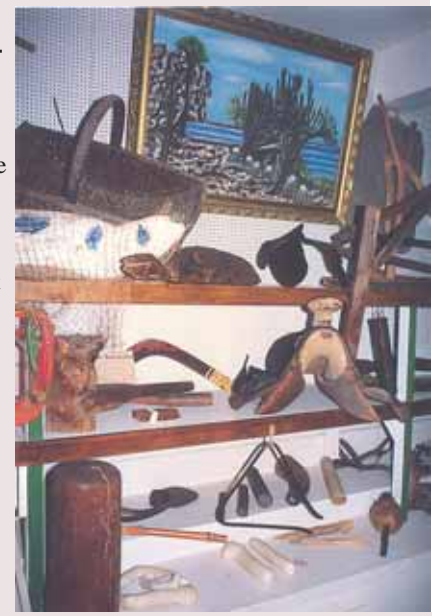
There are other museums on Bonaire that could use a little help also. Emma Sint Jago's *Sentro Chich'i Tan* museum in Rincon will be looking at doing some updates on its people of Bonaire music display.

Maggie Kaiser Booi will be reporting on these different happenings in the next months. Watch for them.

Venezuelan violinist Simon Gollo and renowned Aruban pianist Armand Simon. The artists will play selections from Mozart, Saint Saens, Dvorak, Grieg and others. Tickets are \$25 or \$30 at the door.

Students with ID, \$10. Tickets via website: ClassicalMusicBoardBonaire.com or at Flamingo Bookstore, Addo's, Valerie's Airport shop. ■

L./G.D.



Museum artifacts will be displayed



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Nature Conservation Gets A Boost

EXTRA MONEY FOR SHARK PROTECTION



Last week the Dutch 'Postcode Loterij' approved a grant of USD \$1,9 million for a three year project aimed at shark protection in the waters of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten. The money will be made available to local marine parks through the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), which is a non-governmental organization in which nature parks on all six Dutch Caribbean islands cooperate.

The implementation of this project will be done together with local communities, fishermen and researchers and directed by local experts.

Mr. Tadzio Bervoets, manager of the

Sint Maarten Man of War Shoal Marine Park, is delighted: "All of us who work with these majestic creatures are unbelievably excited and appreciative of the Postcode Lottery for this significant and important contribution. Not only for shark conservation on our islands but also within the region, where much work is being done to understand these important creatures and the role they play in the health of our oceans and the sustainability of the island communities that depend on the sea. All of the involved marine parks have put shark conservation and educating the public on the importance of sharks as a top priority and with this significant boost we will be able to better understand these wonderful creatures and educate our communities on their beauty, their importance for nature and last but not least their contribution to the development of our diving tourism."



Kalli DeMeyer, right, receiving a symbolic check from the Dutch Postcode Lottery representative

Shark conservation work is already firmly underway on St. Maarten, where the Government banned the killing of sharks in its waters and where the Nature Foundation is already running a shark tagging program to collect valuable information on local sharks.

Mr. Kai Wulf, Parks Director for the Saba Conservation Foundation, said, "This support could not have come at a more opportune time, elevating our shark conservation efforts to the highest level."

The excitement of now being able to really have an impact, besides preaching appreciation for these beautiful species as a keystone of a healthy Caribbean sea our livelihoods depend on, yet allowing us to learn more about them and to promote better protection measures, is quickly becoming very contagious."

The cooperation of the six islands through DCNA proved important in realizing this success. DCNA President Mr. Glenn Thodé explains: "Experts of the nature parks worked very hard to produce an outstanding project proposal and because of the outstanding relationship between DCNA and the Postcode Lottery we managed to convince them to select this project for their financial support."

Major donors like the Postcode Lottery prefer projects in which islands work together. DCNA for many years has been such a trustworthy platform for all involved, both inside the Kingdom and abroad."

More information on this project and DCNA can be found at its website: <http://www.dcnanature.org/> needs. ■ Kalli DeMeyer

For further information see <http://www.dcnanature.org/> and <http://www.dcnanature.org/projects/shark-conservation/>

Or contact: Johan Afman, Director STINAPA Bonaire, Tel: +599.717.8444 Email: director@STINAPA.org

And Kalli De Meyer, Executive Director, DCNA, Tel: +599.717.5010 Email:

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Sunset Beach To Be "Playa Publico"

From recently published plans it looks like development of the Sunset Beach property will be done in a way that will provide jobs and business opportunities for Bonaireans -- without erecting a new large hotel. A proposal made in 2010 by the Playa Publico Action Group suggested the property could be used for :

1. A water sports facility owned by locals. People could rent chairs, umbrellas, snorkel and windsurf gear, paddle boats, take snorkel or windsurf lessons, etc.
2. A local Sneek like Maiky's or Antrio Catering, selling food, ice cream, pastechis, drinks, etc..
3. Art Gallery
4. A boardwalk so even the elderly and handicapped can enjoy the beach and the sea
5. A kresh and a playground where people can leave their children to play near the sea
6. A protected swimming area and life guards for the entire beach
7. A boat ramp for small boats
8. A beach volleyball and games area

The drawings indicate places for these activities. The 12 acre property has been divided into three parcels. The project scale is small so development should be affordable to local entrepreneurs.

Last week's press release was



to provide clarity about planned near-term developments at the location, some of which are already underway. Loads of sand are piled along the shore and automobile access has been limited. People are continuing to use the area during this activity. The intention is to maintain free access to the beach for local people while allowing sustainable development of the area which is one of Bonaire's prime seaside locations.

Business for Bonaireans

"It would be really positive if the area could be developed so that Bonaireans could afford to open businesses there to serve the locals and tourists who would come to a public beach as we did in the past,"

said Sherwin Pourier, manager of a local bank.

From an economic point of view, Pourier continued, "such a small-business-oriented development would provide far more opportunity for our people than another hotel where many of the best of any new jobs would go to foreigners."

"Of course building a new hotel would create construction jobs," said Sidney Manuel, a local contractor and president of AKIB. "But would that contract go to a Bonairean company? I doubt it. And with the current tight market for construction labor, where would the workers come from? If the area was developed for small businesses there is a much greater

chance that the work would go to local people and we would not have to import more workers."

"I truly hope that the Sunset Beach area will be developed in a way that benefits our local entrepreneurs and workers rather than some foreign company," added Pourier.

A 2010 survey among both residents and visitors showed overwhelming support for preserving the beach as a public amenity. More than 88% of all respondents and 80% of all Antilleans chose preservation of the beach as opposed to a large hotel or luxury housing. It's taken five years for this message to sink in... and just prior to the perhaps the most critical local elections in the island's history.

One resident commented in the survey, "Most of the money earned by large hotels on Caribbean islands goes to foreigners. Combine that with the fact that they pay very little in taxes and pay below minimum salaries to the majority of their employees and the result is that big hotels do not contribute substantially to the financial health or to the prosperity of the islands."

Environmental Relief

Sorobon beach is an area that is fragile and receives more people than it can sustain during cruise season. This causes permanent damage to our environment and, at

the same time, damages the place for our own people. If we can develop Sunset as a public beach we can provide a location for many people to enjoy and, at the same time, reduce the pressure on other sites and protect our island."

During cruise season, the pressure on the beaches at Sorobon is intense. A well-planned and managed beach at the Sunset site would reduce this threat to the sea grass beds and mangroves."

Following storm damage, bankruptcy and a fire the large area west of the traffic circle has been vacant, but still used by donkeys, goats, dogs as well as people. Since 2006 the Island Government has been the owner of the land. In the past, attempts have been made to develop the entire area, notably a failed scheme by Divi Resorts. In 2013, the government launched a public process to select feasible projects.

Until the full project is finalized there is an agreement with Coco's Beach Management to improve the public space and the beach and make it usable in the short term. This company will invest in the improvement and in return receives the right to benefit from the beach in order to recoup the investment. We will continue to report on this as it develops. ■ Jane Townsend/G..D.

Portions of this story appeared in the October 22, 2010 Bonaire Reporter

Dive Friends Cleanup Nets 1600+



Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Saturday, January 17th, Dive Friends Bonaire organized their first 2015 Quarterly Clean Up Dive. Apart from the members of the crew of Dive Friends Bonaire, **114 volunteers** made this first clean up dive a big success. More than 1,600 foreign items were collected in the underwater world around Karel's Pier.

At 9:45 that early Saturday morning the check in of volunteers took place. Non-divers were more than welcome to help in collecting, rinsing and separating the huge variety of trash. Lionfish hunters were also welcome. The official briefing was at 10am sharp. Divers were instructed about the do's and the don'ts in the underwater world. Just collect fresh trash. Leave old trash, partly covered by new coral to the sea. Do not collect

cans with paint as the paint might destroy the dive gear. Then the bunch of volunteers took off in the direction of Karel's Pier. After a one-hour, non-deco dive they collected more than 1,600 items. Among those treasures: 422 bottles, 85 pieces of fishing line, 96 cans, 2 inner tubes and 2 tires, 3 sunglasses, 2 ID-cards and a hockey puck. No usable lingerie this time.

At six pm the traditional pot luck barbecue was organized. Dive Friends Bonaire prepared the main course and served a beverage for free. A huge variety of divers and volunteers enjoyed the sunset and the food.

Thanks again Dive Friends Bonaire, thanks for organizing this popular event. Thanks for the supply of free air and food and drinks. We all know: "Without blue there is no green!" ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

CHOCOLATE RECIPES TO DIE FOR



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On The Island Since... Early 2011- The Soechit Family



Valeriya, Lovéssa and Ron

“I was born in Surinam but grew up in The Netherlands where we moved when I was four. In Holland two sisters were born. First we lived in Hilversum, a lively town, centrally located, then we moved to Lelystad, a brand new, but remote place in one of the polders.

There was a mix of many cultures and I was a small boy. Almost all the other little kids were physically stronger than I and so, when a new judo school was opened my parents said ‘that would be good for Ronnie!’ That’s how I started with judo. The teacher immediately had us participating in competitions in other cities. The training turned out to be of great advantage when I grew older.

Eventually my parents decided to move back to Hilversum where I went to high school and did Havo/MBO. Subsequently I did Higher Professional Education - Computing and Information Sciences - in The Hague. After two more years of University I got my Master’s degree and became an engineer. I got a job with Media Group West, part of the *Telegraaf* newspaper, providing info service for the commercial TV stations. I worked for them for four years, moved to another media company and three years later I started my own media agency.

I was extremely ambitious, but when I look back, it’s with mixed feelings. You have a large social network, you attend lots of parties, you drive an expensive car and you wear designer clothing. It’s very much about appearances and there’s fierce competition. I had a real good time though and business was booming, however, at a certain moment I looked at myself and thought, ‘What is this all about? There must be so much more to life!’

To tell you the truth,” *he grins*, “I was a terrible go-getter. I never went on vacation and I was never sick (even if I was) and I used to speak bad about people who would go on sick leave. Then I met the girl who is now my wife, six years ago. I was 31 and my

outlook on life changed completely.

It was an early Thursday night and I’d just come from a dinner meeting. I was walking in the center of Amsterdam when I heard some commotion and saw one of my business contacts almost hit a girl with his car. It was close enough to say something, so I asked the girl, ‘Are you okay?’ She walked up to me and she said, ‘I’m fine!’ Then I saw how lovely she was and my mind started racing because I didn’t want to let go of her. As we had already exchanged some words it wasn’t hard to keep the conversation going so I invited her and her girlfriend for a drink. We had a very nice conversation and she told me her name was Valeriya. Before the girls left we exchanged phone numbers and I went for a bite to eat. Then I got a message from Valeriya asking me, ‘Are



Ron teaching judo to the kids

Then we went to Bonaire. My sister was working as a trainee with Plaza Resort and I wanted to introduce Valeriya to her and the island seemed a nice destination. We loved it; a real Caribbean island but developed, and we joked about coming to live here when we were older. Then we returned to Holland.

Valeriya is half Bulgarian, half Russian. Just before we met she was offered a job in Bulgaria but she had second thoughts about accepting the job. Well, I encouraged her to go for it and told her we would stick together no matter what. I came to see her every weekend – a three-hour flight and

In Varna we got the idea of going to Bonaire, and with the little money left we flew to Bonaire and rented a small apartment. Our plan was to work in a restaurant. The second restaurant we walked into hired us on the spot. Soon after I was also teaching mixed martial arts classes at Health & Fitness Center Bonaire. We could pay the rent and we bought a scooter. After four months we decided Bonaire was what we wanted so we went back to Holland to arrange the paper work and say goodbye to family and friends.

While we were in Holland, Valeriya was asked through her (modeling) network if she’d like to get married on a TV show. We went to see the people involved in the show and after some talking they told us the wedding would take place within a week. We were flabbergasted. What to tell our parents? But somehow it all worked out and everything was taken care of, literally everything; it was fantastic!

Before we left Bonaire, I was offered the position of manager/barman at the ‘At Sea’ restaurant, and Valeriya was promised a job at Harbour Village. So we had a solid foundation to come back to. After having been in Holland for a month, the owner of the Health and Fitness Club Bonaire asked me if we would be interested in buying the place. I thought ‘Wow! If we could do it, it would be a dream come true!’ All my life I’d been into sports. I’m a black belt in judo, jiu-jitsu and karate and all my life I’ve done kickboxing. And you know what... we managed to buy the gym. Somehow we did find a way – unbelievable!

I had just started at ‘At Sea’ and I couldn’t disappoint the owners, so Valeriya worked the afternoons and evenings at the gym while I did the mornings. After

six months of working morning, noon and night it was time to make up my mind, so I went to work full-time at the gym. In September it will be four years. December 2013 we moved into what used to be the bowling alley because we needed more space and we’re doing well!

On October 16th, 2013, our daughter Lovéssa was born on Bonaire and it’s the most beautiful thing that could happen to us. We are incredibly happy! To have a child - there are no words to describe the joy. She is a real mix: Bulgarian, Russian, Surinamese, Hindu, and... born on Bonaire.

I work a lot, but when I’m not working the three of us spend every minute together, because wherever we go, Lovéssa goes too. She’s just too cute. Life is what you make of it. If you really want it, you can do a lot. Of course you need some luck and I’ve been lucky, but I never sat still. You can’t expect people to do it for you. And you can’t keep complaining, you have to move on.

To me, what is really important in life is that I wake up with the sun on my face and there are my wife and daughter, the sweetest people in the world, right next to me. I go to work on my scooter – and my work is my hobby. It’s a boyhood dream on a tropical island. I’ve known a different side of life because I’ve been part of the rat race, but for me personally, this life is my ultimate dream.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“I’ve known a different side of life because I’ve been part of the rat race, but for me personally, this life is my ultimate dream.”

you still having a good time?’ I was thrilled! I messaged her back ‘not really, because you’re not here... wouldn’t you like to come back?’ And totally unexpectedly she wrote, ‘Okay! See you in 10 minutes!’ Ever since that night we’ve never let go of each other.

In all those years I had never gone on a vacation just for the fun of it. Then Valentine’s Day was approaching and I thought maybe it would be nice to go for a weekend, just the two of us. We went to Antwerp and it was super nice to walk and talk and eat and drink together and not to think about work at all.

From then on almost every weekend we went to see places like Venice, Barcelona, Portugal, Berlin and Paris. It was tremendous – magic!

then eight hours by bus. I could stay one day and then I had to go back. Luckily I had my own company, so after a while I managed to stay longer, but nevertheless it became harder and harder to say goodbye. Then Valeriya decided to come back to Holland.

It was 2009 and the economic crisis was hitting Holland hard. I was still doing okay, but around me one company after another went bankrupt. I began to notice that it was difficult to get new clients while the old ones were taking their advertising budgets to a larger media agency. After some consideration I decided to pull the plug on the company and I sold it. I had some savings and the two of us went to live in Varna, on the Black Sea coast where we stayed for nine months.

Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being discussed "on the street"

Residents of the Hato area recently received official notices that preparation for and installation of the *kloaka* (sewer system) project will begin in that neighborhood the first week in February. Interestingly, the documents note that the process will be different from the previous installations. In Belnem, Playa Pariba, Playa and Playa Pabou they first dug the public sewer lines and later dug the connections to the individual homes and businesses. In Hato, they plan to dig and install the connections from the homes and businesses to the street and later install the public sewer lines. Lessons learned or just for the hell of it?



- Bula previously reported that **Michi Zhen, former MCB Information Officer, would be opening a new eatery in the Bonaire Shopping District at the Hato traffic circle.** Looks like opening is imminent. A large, stylish new signed touting "Zen's Bar & Cafe" was recently installed.
- Open...closed...open...closed...Bula also previously reported on several bars/eateries that were open or soon to be open. Two of them did open but were recently closed by the "restaurant police" due to not having all the proper permits. **Bula's advice in this new age of Dutch regulations: dot all your i's and cross all your t's BEFORE you open.**
- Open, open, open! **"A Piece of Cake" touting coffee, cake and food,** is the latest business to open across from MCB Playa branch that has seen many reincarnations (Lost Penguin, Papagayo, Addo's Toys, etc.). A member of a long time Kaya Grandi entrepreneur family reports that their chocolate cake is the best he's ever tasted.
- **Check the ad in this edition about cashier window hours at the Tax Office (Belastingdienst).** The announcement encourages people to pay online or at the bank. A large percentage of the local older population has no access to on-line banking which could translate into longer lines at the bank. And why the new hours now, when everyone has to get new vehicle stickers? Enjoy waiting in the lines and chatting with your friends or bring a book.
- The new route for the Karnaval Parade 2015 is generating not-so-positive "words on the street." Some parade participants are complaining the route is too long, some parade watchers are complaining there is no shade or nearby bars/restaurants, some homeowners complaining they will be prisoners in their homes for hours. **First time in Bula's long memory that the parade will not be going down Kaya Grandi.** The parade route for the Grand March on Sunday, February 15: Parade will begin on Kaya Nikiboko South at the roundabout crossroad with Kaya Industria/Kaya Emerenciana, proceed down Kaya Nikiboko South, Kaya Caracas, Kaya Simon Bolivar, J.A. Abraham Blvd., Kaya Gilberto Croes, back down Kaya Nikiboko South and end in the area of van den Tweel.
- **Is it just coincidence that there are 2 cruise ships in town on Karnaval Sunday?** (Ironically, one of them being one of the big Carnival line cruise ships.) **Did someone feel a need to keep the streets clear for the tourists?**
- **Many months ago Telbo announced it would be offering super high speed cellular phone service.** According to local newspaper *extra*, Telbo is working with a cell service out of Aruba which will allow "roaming" service on Bonaire. Their sources report that the SIM cards were not "functioning optimally" and did not work with the roaming system so the cards need to be "revised." No date set for when cell service will be operable. Telbo's goal is to offer a "complete" communication package: land line, cell phone, internet and television. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in The Panama Canal



Fittipaldi Pietersz, reporter and photographer for the *Extra* (far right) writes. "This is the 'Bon Vibe' crew that surprised **Andre Lending** (blue striped shirt) for his 18th anniversary with 32 years of experience (that's how he expresses being 50), which he chose to celebrate on a cruise ship. Andre is the managing director of Napa Bonaire and is very active in service organizations, foundations in particular, and the community of Bonaire in general. Ludwina (Loetje) Lending, Andre's wife, holds *The Bonaire Reporter*."

The picture below was taken just a few hours prior to Andre's birthday, December 25th. Family Pieters (white shirts), Pietersz, Thielman and Lending (elf shirt). ■



"PS: I also left a copy of *The Reporter* in our cabin on the ship so others can read it." →→





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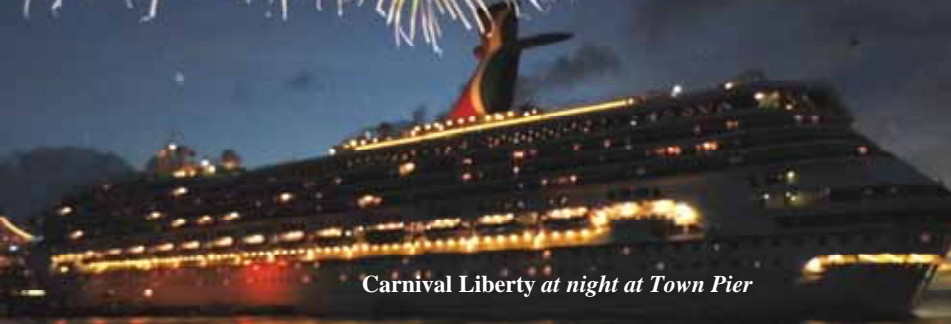
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First Visit to Bonaire of Carnival Liberty



Carnival Liberty at night at Town Pier

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Monday, January 19th, was a historical day for the Carnival Cruise Lines and the island of Bonaire when the *Carnival Liberty* visited the island for the first time. The ship arrived at 2pm and left at 10pm. Bonaire is a new destination for Carnival Cruise Lines which plans nine calls for the cruise season of 2015. This time Captain Leonardo Montarino sailed to our island with almost 3,000 passengers. All in all, Carnival Cruise Lines will bring some 27,000 tourists here during the cruise season.

Guests, including Lt. Gov. Edison Reina, Deputy James Kroon, TCB members and reporters were invited by the captain. The *Liberty* is from the so called Conquest class

and was built in Italy by Finantieri, Monfalcone. The outside of the vessel looks modern and classy; the inside has a kind of overwhelming rococo style with a lot of wood, marble and glass. Luxury all over.

After the tour there was a get together in one of the ship's restaurants: speeches, words of welcome. Lt. governor Reina made Captain Montarino an official friend of Bonaire.

From 6:30 pm until 9pm a cultural event took place at the Wilhelmina Square. Music and dance, local food, a small carnival parade. The passengers of the *Liberty* loved it. See you soon, Carnival Liberty. Bon bini! ■ Jan Brouwer



While many think it's super that the *Carnival Liberty* is calling at Bonaire they might consider it is one of the most polluting ships in service. The Friends of the Earth gives it an F rating. In contrast the *Noordam*, which also calls here, gets all As. ■ G.D.

Ship Name	Persons Aboard	Sewage Treatment	Air Pollution Reduction	Final Ship Grade
<i>Carnival Liberty</i>	4860	F	F	F

Source: 2014 Cruise Ship Report Card

Cruise Ship Tidbits

Some crewmembers from the cruise ship *Explorer Of The Seas* volunteered to clean up the beach around Willemstoren Lighthouse during their recent visit. They spent two hours filling sacks with trash that had been washed ashore. The cooperation of Stinapa, Bonaire Destination Services and Rento Fun made this possible. ■ Press release



Bonaire's in-town Cha-Cha Beach has been getting taken over by local tour operators serving cruise ship tourists. Former Minister Edith Strauss Marsera asked the Governor in a letter to take quick action to make sure the beach can continue to be safely and conveniently used by local people. For many years the area has been shared by senior citizens groups, used by Eddy Christiaan to teach generations of Bonairean youngsters to swim, SCUBA divers and lots of kids wanting to just have fun in the water.

There are other problems at the beach too. When ships are in, their mooring lines obstruct the area. People walking their dogs sometimes allow the animals to use the area as a toilet, creating unhygienic conditions. Edith Strauss-Marsera hopes that a solution will be found quickly. ■ Press release



Snorkelers at Cha Cha Cha Beach

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Stormvogel T-shirts and Products Now

Restoration of the sailing ship *Stormvogel* is the flagship project of *Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru* (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation). This all-volunteer group is dedicated to saving the last of the Bonaire-built wooden sailing ships, vessels that were central to the island's economy and society just a generation ago.

The 45-foot *Stormvogel* will be returning back to Bonaire from Curacao in February where the boat will be historically restored to its former sailing glory at the Navegante Boatyard in Hato.

To help with the return and restoration costs, the foundation is selling Project *Stormvogel* products to help fund the project. These include

- T-shirts (\$20),
- Bottle insulators, "Coozies" (\$5) and
- Bumper stickers (\$3).

All proceeds after the cost of the items go directly to the old boat's restoration. They can be purchased at Budget Marine, the Zazu Bar, Boutique Vita on Kaya Grandi, the Beach Hut at Sorobon, and the Harbour Village Marina office. Kanti' Awa, the waterfront bar next to the Regatta Center on Kaya Playa Lechi,



Jr. Ranger Julia Martinus models the shirt and shows the bumper stickers

is also selling bottle insulators and bumper stickers for the cause. Dianna Rybak from the Sign Studio donated her time and substantial design skills in the development of the items. Buying a Project *Stormvogel* product is a great way to help preserve a piece of Bonaire's rich nautical past.

You also can support this worthwhile project with a cash contribution. Here is a list of individuals and companies who have generously donated to date at suggested levels.

- Fleet Commander \$1000 & up: Cargill Salt Inc., the Alice B. and John J. Holian Trust.

- Admiral \$500 & up: Ger Bakker & Nettie Kerkhof, Jeff Campbell & Karen Kurzawa, Janet & Charlie Cvrk, Rik Felderhof, Cameron & Thomas Harlan, George & Nathalie Mayfarth, Rob &

Darwin's Tire Shop Is Booming

OPEN EVERY DAY
FROM 8AM-7PM

Recently Darwin Alba reopened the family's tire shop at Kaya Dr. José G. Hernandez, across from Botica Korona and the All Denture Lab, and from that moment on it's been thriving.

The shop, very well known by islanders, has been newly renovated, inside and out, and Darwin's service is incomparable because he's a pro but also a fun guy with a vast knowledge of human nature who loves to joke around. "I'm here to help the people with their tires and it's just exciting because all day long people stop by to say hello, to chat, to listen to the music and to tell me the latest news. They come with car problems and end up telling me their personal problems and so I hear a lot of stories! Not one day is the same!"

And I have an extra service for the Animal Shelter, because they can have their tires fixed for free with me.

Don't be shy and pass by because I'm always here, from 8 in the morning until 7 at night and I speak all the languages – so that's no problem. If I'm not here just wait, because I'm picking a car up or I'm bringing it back, but to make sure people can call me at 780-4974." ■ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*



Darwin Alba

Karen Smith, South Caribbean Sailing, Sunbelt Realty, Valmour Zimmerman and two anonymous contributors.

- Captain \$250 & up: Bruce Brabec and Marlene Robinson, John & Lena Stangel.

- Ensign \$100 & up: Jane Disko, Mark Holian, Brenda Free, John Magruder, Tom & Gigi Quinby.

There is also the First Mate level for contributions less than \$100. Donations can be made directly to Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru at Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V., Account # 40934710, Swift Code: MCBKBQBN. The foundation's address is Kaya Irlandia z/n. ■ *Story & photo by Patrick Holian*



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Great Fishing!

The 27th Bonaire International and Local Fishing Tournament was a great success. With only a sliver of a new moon the fish



were hungry by morning. With a first strike brought in and released in less than an hour after the lines were in the water, the tournament was off to a great start. **There were a total of 21 boats in the International portion: 16 from Aruba Curacao and Venezuela and 5 from Bonaire.** Many of the foreign boats made a full vacation of it, arriving up to two weeks in advance to enjoy the island and seek out the best fishing grounds. With only 21 boats, a total of 35 releases and 12 strikes that were lost in 2 days, kept all of the boats and the control center very busy. Yet... there was still enough energy for great parties at night. An amazing 17 out of the 21 boats got their name on the board with at least a strike. Day one was the day of the blues with 10 blue Marlin, 4 White Marlin and 2 Sail fish released and 7 strikes that were lost. Day 2 the White Marlin took the hook with 13 releases and only 4 Blue Marlin, 3 Sailfish and 5 lost.

Each Blue Marlin released is worth 300 points and each White or Sailfish are worth 150 points. The tie is broken by the first to reach the points. If they are released at the same time, the time of the strike is then used as the next tie breaker.

No bill fish are taken aboard. A strictly controlled set of photos are taken to confirm the release along with control codes given over the radio and times recorded by the control to match up with the photos.

In the "big boat" class, **Naira from Aruba took first place** with 1,200 points and the first release for Friday. **Sea Ross from Curacao** also with 1,200 points, came in **second**. **Alina from Aruba** grabbed the **3rd** place with 900 points while **Meal Ticket from Bonaire** took **4th** with 600 points and the prize for first release on Saturday.

La Gorda from Bonaire won the **most tuna** while **Alina from Aruba** brought in the **largest tuna**. The monster weighed in at 45kg. **Afishonado from Curacao** took both the **most and the largest Dorado**, while all of the Wahoo stayed hidden from this tournament. The locals did find their share of these!

The local fishing tournament, for mostly smaller boats, also saw record catches with 21 boats participating and 13 of those made the board. Those 13 boats brought in an amazing catch of more than a ton of fish -1,034 kilos (2,275lbs). You can be sure that there tuna is featured as the catch of the day in many restaurants. There was a huge variety of fish caught. The market at It Rains Fishes is certainly well stocked with the buyers on the pier ready to snatch up much of the fresh fish arriving.

The local tournament aims for fish to eat and the fishermen keep their own catch.



Club Nautico dock

For the boats 17 feet and under, **Eugene Granviel on Devoron** reeled in 5 fish for a total of 31.5 kg for **third place**. **Larry Gerharts on Kido** brought aboard 26 fish with 56kg for **second place**, while **Renny Cicilia on Speed** took **first place** with 38 fish for a total of 65.5kg.

For the boats 17 feet and larger **Humphrey Thomas on Rainbow Runner** caught 46 fish for a total of 110kg for **third place** and **Nicolaas on Wild Lady** took **second** with 41 fish at 122.5kgs and **Eddie Coffie on Double Eagle** wore the reels hauling in 92 fish tipping the scales at 189kg, for **first**. Not bad for one day of fishing!

We hope that next year the fish are equally hungry and the anglers equally skillful in bringing them in.

Napa and It Rains Fishes were the main sponsors of the events. Of course none of these competitions would be possible without the participation of our island partners who have supported the tournaments throughout the years. We are



Part of the record catch

glad to have their partnership to allow great events like this to take place. **Best Brands Bonaire, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Bonaire Tobacco and Liquor Store, Rocargo, Curacao Yacht Agency, Spice Beach Club, Stone Crusher, Don Andres, Insel Air, TCB, Window Wizard, Vinnie Designz, Bonaire Marine Center and Budget Marine** were each in part responsible for this great success. We hope to join forces with them and many more to make a great event again next year! ■ *Story & photos by Pam Wer-dath-Teitel*



Caribisch Nederland
Belastingdienst

Belastingdienst CN announces new opening hours for cash registers

As of February 2nd, 2015, the opening hours of the cash registers are from Monday to Friday, non-stop from 9 am to 13:30 pm.

We advise you to make your payments to the Belastingdienst as much as possible via your bank, by means of online banking or a deposit. If you would like to receive more information on this topic, please contact the Belastingdienst, telephone 715-8585.

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My Little Shop

On Bonaire there are still some tiny little shops, called “tokos,” found in the neighborhoods. They struggle to survive. In order to get the story behind those shops our reporter visits them. If you don’t want those shops to disappear, support them by visiting them and buy something. Every dollar counts for them.

Let’s keep them going. They represent Bonairean history.

Toko Trupial

On Kaya Rafaela you find **Toko Trupial**, a small toko in Antriol. If you follow Kaya Linda past Hillside and keep on driving the asphalt road with some curves you will find this toko on your left hand side. Parking is no problem. The toko is open from Monday till Saturday from 11am to 7pm.

Who is the owner?

Olga Christian, who originally comes from the Dominican Republic, owns the shop. She rents the building and owns the inventory. She’s lived on Bonaire for 32 years. She started out as a cleaner of hotel rooms, married a Bonairean man from Rincon who unfortunately passed away and has rented toko Trupial for 18 years. She came here for work and gradually learned to speak Papiamentu. She really likes Bonaire and is very grateful she can live here. Bonaire feels very safe to her, and in comparison to the Dominican Republic it has fewer problems and less poverty.

She started her business, as she says, when Bonaire was still Bonaire. There were hardly any Chinese supermarkets and snacks and everybody would pass by her shop and had some guilders to spend. On Sundays there would be barbecue. People would play dominos and there was a lot going on. In Rincon there was literally nothing to buy, so everybody would come to Playa. Those were the days!

What is sold?

Olga sells all kinds of drinks and you can sit in her shop or outside to enjoy them. She sells candy, nuts, canned vegetables, groceries and some fruit, onions and potatoes from local neighborhood growers.

Where do the customers come from?

Most of the customers are people who live in the neighborhood. They come to drink a beer, talk with each other and exchange information about what is going on. If people have forgotten an ingredient they come to her shop to get it. People go to the big Chinese supermarkets to get their daily food, so she cannot have a large stock in the store. She usually gets around seven to eight customers per day; she cannot afford to close because she can’t take the risk of losing customers.

A couple of months ago there were a lot of Dutch people visiting her business. They had made a tour and passed by different small shops. She really liked this, having some more and different



Olga Christian, operator of Toko Trupial in Antriol— pass by and visit

people around. Wouldn’t it be great to organize this more often?

How to survive?

It has become very hard to survive. As Olga can only buy small quantities she does not get a discount from the wholesaler. As her customers have become poorer they don’t buy a lot and they go to supermarkets where it’s cheaper. She earns less than the minimum wage and works to be able to eat, as she has a very low pension. Still she wants to keep on going. She doesn’t like to give up and let other people take over. She saw things change since 1995: Chinese people took over a lot of shops and Bonaireans gave up their businesses. She doesn’t under-

stand why the government allowed this to happen.

The future - hopes and wishes

She hopes to be able to continue her work. She really wants the Bonairean people to be proud of their island and have some chances. *No hay major terra que la mia* (There is no better land than my own) should be their slogan, as it is hers. To feel that is to be rich! ■ *Story & photo by Justine Verschoor*



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Special Events



Happy Birthday Meriyah Martijn

Together we will celebrate on 8 February. at Parke Publico
 Special love and xoxo from all your fans
 God bless you with many more years



That sharks are losing their sense of smell due to ocean acidification? Sharks have a keen sense of smell that can detect prey from great distances. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is released into the atmosphere by the use of fossil fuels and decreases the pH of ocean water. This acidification of the ocean is associated with global climate change and has been shown to affect how marine predators detect their prey, including sharks. In a recent study, adult smooth dogfish sharks avoided squid odor after swimming in a pool of water that had been treated with the levels of CO₂ predicted for the year 2050. Predator behaviors like tracking and attacking of prey are dependent on the sensing of odors. These senses were greatly reduced with increased levels of CO₂. The next time that you smell some delicious fish, think about how sharks may lose this ability because of fossil fuel overuse! ■

Elizabeth Gugliotti

Elizabeth Gugliotti is a Biology major from Wofford College in South Carolina. She studied abroad on Bonaire for the fall semester of 2014 at the CIEE Research Station.



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WINE & SPIRITS



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A Garden? Just Do It!

A BOTANICAL GARDEN IN BONAIRE



Emanuel Vargas greets us



Funny but functional



Nature for Nature



A stairway for orchids to wind around and hang on. All handmade creative thinking from Emanuel and Sandra

Awesome! That's what I call the Botanical Garden of Emanuel Vargas. On a recent Friday morning at 10 a friend and I arrived at the Botanical Garden at Tras di Montana where Emanuel, the owner of this garden, was waiting for us. Soon after other members of the local press arrived and Emanuel began a guided tour through the garden with a lot of explanations. In different sections of the garden, we were shown ingenious techniques to save water, how to make compost from different

materials, what kind of containers to use for planting, how to make the soil productive, how he uses different animal manure. (Even iguana manure is collected to mix with dirt and old animal bones which Emanuel says is phosphorus for the plants.) Two greenhouses have peppers, parsley, tomatoes, string beans, spinach and more. Okra (*yambo*) grows in a mix of soil and cardboard. There is a bee hive with bees for honey. All the vegetables, flowers, trees, herbs grown with all these different techniques are unsprayed and without any other chemical stuff. Just pure natural. There was way more interested things to see, too much to say. One just has to visit

this garden to admire the amazing job Emanuel and his partner Sandra do there. At the end they offered us a great lunch which was the best taste of veggys from a botanical garden. Emanuel, an experienced gardener, comes from Ecuador, Sandra from Chile. Both are busy in the botanical garden. Sandra is also busy with a kind of art. She makes colorful things from old wood, renews chairs and much more. The garden is open to the public Wednesday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Call for an appointment at 795-2328 or 786-3370. You get a great tour for about an hour. At the end you get a nice homemade juice and you'll have a lot of information and ideas about all kinds of gardening. The cost per

person is \$10. And maybe you can also ask if its possible and what it would cost to have a great veggy lunch prepared by Sandra. The Botanical garden is in Tras di Montana, on the road to Rincon. It's just north of the sign for Aletta's Goat Farm, on the same side of the road. There is a sign, "Botanical Garden." Follow the dirt road for just a few meters and you'll be there, and maybe with Emanuel waiting for you in front. ■ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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MISCELLANEOUS



SCOOTER FOR SALE

Peugeot Ludix Special Blaster
49,9cc Colour: Black/White
12,900 KM. Year: 2012
Price: \$1500 USD
Tel: 785-3353 Anne-Marie

Ladies bike for sale asking price \$ 200 max and min \$ 150. Also, A Brand New Led TV- 19 " For Sale Asking Price \$ 200 \$ 125 Bottom Phone: 717-8603 Ms. Gevers.

REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

FOR RENT: Small furnished studio for one quiet person at Belnem. Long term. No pets. Rent price includes utilities: water, electricity, wifi and TV cable. 1 month deposit. Contract with inventory list, 2 months notice. Rent \$325 a month. **Phone 785-9900. House phone 717-2698 thereserosier@telbonet.an**

For rent 5 studios at Hato, Kaya Utrecht 25. All included service and also use, wifi, furnished. 1-2 persons. for a week, or \$475,565,525,660.per month. 1 month deposit. **Call Monique 796 2529 or 780 1433 during daylight.**

Help restore Bonaire's sailing past

by buying *Stormvogel* T-shirts, bottle "cozies" and bumper stickers. Available at Budget Marine the Zazu Bar the Harbour Village Marina office, the Beach Hut and Kant'i Awa .



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or (5999 563-1913)**

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 02	00:59 0.13 ft	04:25 0.09 ft	11:49 0.84 ft	20:51 -0.12 ft		7:00	18:38
Tue 03	02:42 0.15 ft	04:47 0.15 ft	12:33 0.76 ft	21:37 -0.10 ft	Full Moon	7:00	18:38
Wed 04	13:18 0.68 ft	22:15 -0.08 ft				7:00	18:38
Thu 05	04:51 0.26 ft	07:20 0.26 ft	14:03 0.61 ft	22:44 -0.06 ft		7:00	18:39
Fri 06	05:05 0.32 ft	09:17 0.28 ft	14:50 0.53 ft	23:07 -0.04 ft		7:00	18:39
Sat 07	05:20 0.39 ft	10:51 0.25 ft	15:39 0.46 ft	23:25 -0.02 ft		6:59	18:40
Sun 08	05:37 0.47 ft	12:04 0.21 ft	16:27 0.40 ft	23:42 -0.01 ft		6:59	18:40
Mon 09	05:57 0.55 ft	13:04 0.15 ft	17:14 0.34 ft	23:59 -0.02 ft		6:59	18:40
Tue 10	06:21 0.64 ft	13:55 0.09 ft	17:59 0.28 ft			6:59	18:40
Wed 11	L Quarter	00:19 -0.03 ft	06:49 0.73 ft	14:42 0.03 ft	18:42 0.23 ft	6:58	18:41
Thu 12		00:43 -0.05 ft	07:21 0.81 ft	15:27 -0.02 ft	19:25 0.19 ft	6:58	18:41
Fri 13		01:11 -0.07 ft	07:57 0.88 ft	16:11 -0.06 ft	20:10 0.16 ft	6:58	18:41
Sat 14		01:46 -0.09 ft	08:36 0.93 ft	16:56 -0.10 ft	20:59 0.14 ft	6:57	18:42
Sun 15		02:28 -0.09 ft	09:20 0.96 ft	17:41 -0.12 ft	21:54 0.15 ft	6:57	18:42
Mon 16		03:17 -0.08 ft	10:07 0.95 ft	18:27 -0.14 ft	22:57 0.17 ft	6:57	18:42



Vladimir Mercera shows the back

Be one of the first to have a
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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 "hard-to-finds" 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

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.



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 things 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.



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)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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 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

Sundays

• **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.

• **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 on-island** at 8 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Hab-

Cruise Ship Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	CAPACITY	CRUISE LINE
Monday	2-02-15	Mein Schiff 1	2114	TUI CRUISE
Monday	2-02-15	Explorer of the Seas	3114	RCCL
Tuesday	3-02-15	Azura	3080	P&O Cruises
Wednesday	4-02-15	Aida Luna	2194	Aida Cruises
Thursday	5-02-15	Queen Victoria	2000	Cunard
Saturday	7-02-15	Seabourn Legend	208	HAL
Saturday	7-02-15	Breamar	929	Fred Olsen
Tuesday	10-02-15	Ventura	3080	P&O Cruises
Wednesday	11-02-15	Noordam	1920	HAL
Sunday	15-02-15	Carnival Triumph	3143	TBA
Sunday	15-02-15	Silver Cloud	296	Sliversea cruises
Monday	16-02-15	Mein Schiff 1	2114	TUI CRUISE
Monday	16-02-15	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

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. **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 peejeese@gmail.com

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; 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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

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

Tuesday, February 3 - Full Moon Evening activities at the Kunuku of Tito Thielman at Ser'i Bará; 7-9pm. Free bus from Rincon at 5:30pm. Call Yùfrou Joi Helmeijer -Marsera - 516-6560 or Sra. Magali Sumter - 565-0947 or Sr. Ubaldo Anthony - 717-4935

Saturday, February 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.

Saturday, February 21—Concert with pianist Armand Simon and violinist Simon Gollo playing Mozart, Saint Saens, Dvorak, and more. At the little Mariadal chapel, Kaya L.D. Gerharts. Sponsored by Classical Music Board Bonaire, 8 pm. Tickets via website: ClassicalMusicBoardBonaire.com, Addo's Books, Flamingo Bookstore, Valerie's Airport Shop. \$25, \$30 at the door. Students \$10. More on page 3

Saturday, February 28 -Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, food and drink

Sunday, March 1 -Special Olympics Walkathon (tentative). This year our teams are off to Los Angles

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 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

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,



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
February 2015 Astrological Forecast

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your ideas can be put into action. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Be discreet and don't reveal any personal information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Remember; talk to them, not at them. You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension. Implement your ideas into your projects at work. Try to compromise rather than having an all out battle. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Invite friends over rather than spending money on lavish entertainment. You will have the stamina and the know how to raise your earning power. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You can make financial deals that will bring you extra cash. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Set your goals and stick to your guns. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) There's a good chance that they won't come back. Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. Get involved in the activities of children. They will teach you far more than you expect. Feeling under the weather may be a result of overindulgence. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. You can expect opposition at work. Don't let your competition be privy to information that could be in criminating. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Get back down to earth and to basics. You may attract attention if you get out socially. Consider making residential changes; either moves or renovations could payoff. You may be fortunate while traveling. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your partner may be somewhat irritable this month. You may want to make plans to take a vacation together. You will meet potential new mates through friends or relatives. Try looking into new ways to make extra money. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You are best to tuck your money away where no one will be able to touch it, including yourself. Try not to lose your cool, and make your point known. Your versatile mind and common sense will allow you to come up with various solutions. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Lighten up your serious attitude. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Creative educational pursuits will payoff. You need an outlet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) This will not be the day to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other. Small business ventures can earn you extra cash. Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts. New love connections can be made through group associations. Don't divulge secret information. Difficulties with female members of your family may result in estrangements. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

COSMIC VALENTINE

If you want to give your sweetheart something special and out of this world for Valentine's Day we have a trio of exquisitely beautiful objects in the cosmos, gift wrapped and ready to present right here in the Bonaire Sky Park.

On Valentine's night, Saturday, February 14th, after sunset face west where you'll see an exquisitely beautiful, dazzlingly brilliant object that may look like a star. But a star it is not. It is, instead, the brightest planet we can see from Earth, the planet named for what else- the Roman goddess of love, 8,000-mile-wide Venus.

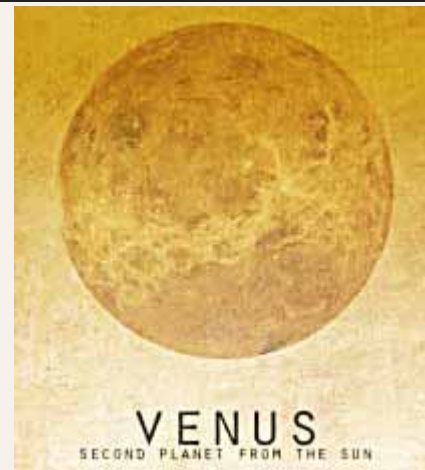
If you have a telescope take a look at Venus and you'll see that Venus is not quite round. Venus is on the other side of the solar system so it's much smaller now than it will be this summer when it will be much, much closer.

You can celebrate this Valentine's Day by first showing your loved one the super bright planet of the goddess of love shining down on both of you, which will be prettier than any Valentine's Day card out there. Then for a super special cosmic Valentine's look due south between the hours of 8 and 9 pm and you'll see a very bright red star shining above the horizon. In fact it's the brightest red star we can see with the naked eye from planet Earth and, just coincidentally, it reaches its highest point above the horizon every Valentine's Day between the hours of 8 and 9 pm.

It marks the shoulder star of the great sky-giant Orion the hunter and its name is Betelgeuse which most people pronounce beetle juice.

If we compare Betelgeuse, the Valentine's star, with our own star, the Sun and our own planet the Earth, you'll understand just how big. Our Earth is 8,000 miles wide, which means it is pretty dinky compared to our Sun, which is 865,000 miles wide. In fact, we could fit over one million Earths inside our Sun. Betelgeuse, however, is so huge we could fit over 160 million of our Suns inside it. And that's just when Betelgeuse is at its smallest size.

We say smallest size because Betelgeuse changes its size regularly like a gigantic slowly pulsating heart, one that beats how-



ever, only once every six years. When Betelgeuse is fully contracted and at its smallest size it is still about 500 times the width of our Sun but when it expands to its biggest size it is almost 900 times as wide.

Or, if you care to think of it this way, if we could place Betelgeuse where our Sun is, when Betelgeuse is at its smallest, it would stretch out past the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and all the way to Mars. But when it's at its largest it will reach all the way to Jupiter.

And if you turn and look east you'll spot Jupiter the king. It is the biggest and almost the brightest planet we can see from Earth, the planet named for the Roman king of the gods. If you have binoculars or a telescope take a look at Jupiter on Valentine's night and look for a close pair of lights above Jupiter. They are two of Jupiter's moons, Io and Europa. And you can watch them separate after an early evening kiss that night.

So, there you have it. A brilliant planet named for the king of the gods right after sunset in the east. In the west the planet of love, Venus, and due south between 8 and 9 pm and at its highest, the biggest cosmic Valentine you'll ever want to give - Betelgeuse - a giant red star slowly beating like a heavenly heart for your sweetheart courtesy of our local galaxy. Is this a romantic cosmos or what? ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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Shelter News

Spay and Neuter Animal Shelter Tips:

The single most important thing that we can do to save cats and dogs from all the suffering and death that their overpopulation causes is to spay and neuter them. Spaying and neutering are routine, affordable surgeries that can prevent thousands of animals from being born, only to suffer and struggle to survive on the streets, be abused by cruel or neglectful people, or be euthanized for lack of a loving home.

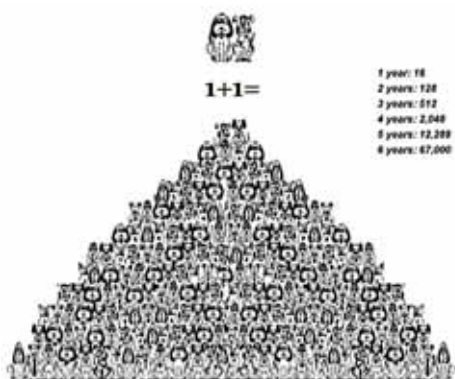
Spaying and neutering makes a big difference: **Just one unaltered female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in only six years. In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can produce an incredible 370,000 kittens!**

Sterilized animals live longer, happier lives. Spaying eliminates the stress and discomfort that females endure during heat periods, eliminates the risk of uterine cancer, and greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Neutering makes males far less likely to roam or fight, prevents testicular cancer, and reduces the risk of prostate cancer. Altered animals are less likely to contract deadly, contagious diseases, such as feline AIDS and feline leukemia that are spread through bodily fluids.

Spay and Neuter Facts

Will my animal's personality change after spaying or neutering?

Spaying and neutering will only reduce or eliminate the behaviors that you don't want, such as aggression and urine marking. Neutered males are less likely to



roam, fight, or mark their territory with urine, and spayed females experience less hormone-related moodiness. In exchange, your companions will likely become more interested in you (rather than finding a mate) and will still protect your family.

Will spaying and neutering affect my animal's weight?

No. Cats and dogs become overweight and inactive because their guardians feed them too much and exercise them too little, not because they are sterilized.

Why should I have my male cat or dog neutered?

Male animals contribute to overpopulation even more than females do. Just one unsterilized male animal can impregnate dozens of females, creating dozens upon dozens of unwanted offspring. Neutering also eliminates male animals' risk of testicular cancer and reduces unwanted behaviors such as biting.

Should I let my female animal have one litter before having her spayed?

It's best to spay animals before they reach sexual maturity in order to reap the full health benefits. Spaying your female companion animal before her first heat cycle means she will have one-seventh the risk of developing mammary cancer. Spaying also eliminates female animals' risk of diseases and cancers of the ovaries and uterus, which are often life-threatening and require expensive surgery and treatment.

What if I can find homes for all my animal's puppies or kittens?

Even if you manage to find loving, life-long homes for all the puppies or kittens, that means that there will be that many fewer homes for puppies and kittens in animal shelters who desperately need to be adopted. And unless you ensure that every puppy or kitten you place is spayed or neutered before going to his or her new home, they can go on to produce litter after litter of offspring themselves. (See first column in bold).

Is sterilization safe?

Spay and neuter surgeries are the most commonly performed animal surgeries. Most animals experience relatively little discomfort (anesthesia is used during surgery, and pain medication is generally given afterward) and are back to their normal activities within a day or two.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire offers a free spay/neuter for the cats and dogs of Bonaire. Visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road or call for more information. (717-4989). ■

Natalie Petersen

Pet of the Week



Jim

Who wants to adopt handsome Jim?

A few weeks ago our vet picked up this severely bruised male dog by the side of the airport road. He was probably hit by a car. Unfortunately the owner did not show up to claim this dog. The Shelter nourished this dog back to health and named him Jim. Jim is doing very well. He is very affectionate and loves to learn and work. He is looking for a new loving home. If you are interested in adopting Jim, please visit the Animal Shelter, or call for more information. (717-4989). ■ Story & photo by Natalie Petersen



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Preserving Bonaire's Intangible Cultural Heritage with UNESCO



Curacao's NAAM Director Mr. Ansano (first left) with Bonaire's Hubert Vis, Frans Booi and Bòi Antoin at the Consultation.

"INTANGIBLE HERITAGE IS THAT BIT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE THAT 'YOU CAN'T TOUCH.'"

On January 20 and 21, 2015, Bonaire hosted an extensive National UNESCO Consultation on Intangible Cultural Heritage preservation. This National Consultation is part of the sub-regional program called "Strengthening the capacities of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, Saba, St. Maarten and Suriname to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage."

The Netherlands and Bonaire have ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Preservation of The Intangible Cultural Heritage, but now the island has to find a way to make use of the ratification of this convention and implement it.

Ms. Himalchuli Gurung, UNESCO Program Specialist for Culture at the Kingston Cluster Office was in attendance to explain

ways to implement this UNESCO Convention and function as an adviser for Bonaire's cultural parties that will continue the implementation strategies. Heritage consultant for the National Commission for UNESCO Netherlands, **Cornelieke de Klerk**, was also present.

A wonderful welcome to the Consultation was given by **Ms. Liliane de Geus**, who specified the different relationships between UNESCO, The Netherlands, the Caribbean Cluster Office and the various islands including Bonaire when it comes to Intangible Heritage Preservation. Ms. Gurung continued with a presentation on the implementation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, explaining clearly to everyone present that Intangible Heritage is that bit of cultural heritage that "you can't touch."

"Think of stories and music, dance and specific trades like boatbuilding or basket weaving. This is the 'living' heritage, the

heritage that is usually transferred from the older generation to the younger one by listening and doing. Some of this heritage is still very much alive today, but a lot is in danger of being lost forever by what is called 'the last guardian' of this heritage. Think of the last person who knows how to dance a specific dance, sing a particular song or has working knowledge to build a traditional ship. Within the UNESCO Convention for Intangible Cultural Heritage, intangible heritage can be placed on a Representative List and on an urgent list- for the heritage that is in danger of being lost immediately."

Mr. Richenel Ansano, director of The National Archaeological - Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) in Curacao was also present to sign a protocol with **Commissioner Jona Chirino-Felida** for future cooperation between the islands.

Danilo Christiaan spoke about the function of Mangazina di Rei for Bonairean heritage preservation. Then the group enjoyed a traditional lunch and was transported back to Captain's Don's Habitat where the Cultural Policy plan Bonaire was presented, the Cultural Relation between the BES islands and The Netherlands (*Cultuur Handreiking*) was explained and the Bonaire Government cultural funding contracts were clarified.

The next day, at the Island Council building, **Bòi Antoin** took the floor and explained his research, the programs he has made, the library he established and the various websites on which much of Bonaire's intangible heritage has been made accessible through books and television programs. Ms. Gurung explained a little more about actual implementation tools for the Safeguarding of the Intangible heritage and Ms. de Klerk pre-

sented a to-do program for St. Eustatius – giving a quick, clear picture of the steps one can take to start the implementation process.

Various representatives of the Bonairean community were present to listen in on the presentations and to offer help and advice. A discussion on the subject made clear that a commission will be formed by interested parties to continue the implementation process and that a group with five selected members will attend the next conference by UNESCO in Curacao that will provide them with an implementation toolkit.

It became clear that those present considered of utmost importance getting youth of Bonaire involved in the process of safeguarding their Intangible Cultural Heritage and the protection of Papiamentu as a language. Heated discussions between the participating groups in the breaks outside made it crystal clear that the preservation of intangible cultural heritage is very important to many Bonaireans. With the Convention ratified, it is now a question of joining forces and working towards the actual implantation of this Convention so Bonaire's Intangible Cultural Heritage will always remain an active part of its society – a gateway to Bonairean identity. ■

Story & photos by **Sanny Ensing**



Himalchuli Gurung, UNESCO Programme Specialist





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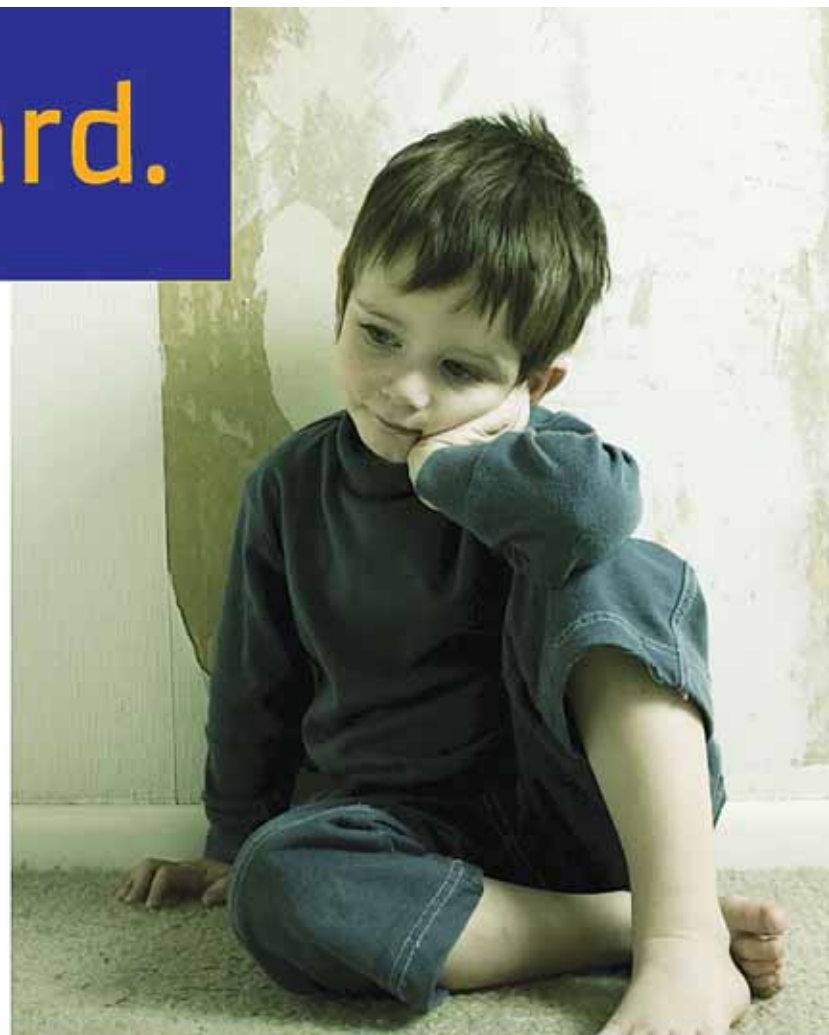
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