

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** May 18-June 8, 2015, Year 22, Issue 10

# The REPORTER

**BES Island News Too**

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994



**Bonaire's New Hot Spot**  
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**A Notification and Referral Point for Health Care in the Caribbean Netherlands was opened on May 4<sup>th</sup>** where people can comment on the quality of health care and register complaints. The Notification and Referral Point is independent from health care providers and has been established by the Healthcare Inspectorate.

On each islands the Notification and Referral Point is located in the RCN office. For Bonaire contact Menouschka Frans, Telephone: (+599) 715 8886, E-mail: [Menouschka.Frans@rijksdienstCN.com](mailto:Menouschka.Frans@rijksdienstCN.com) at the: RCN office in the Bonaire Mall, Kaya Grandi 24, Kralendijk. Office hours: 08:00 through 17:00 hours

► **On May 11 the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce (KvK) started free lessons to help people starting in business** called "Create New Chances." It focused on making a Business Plan. The first part was held at 7 pm at Captain Don's Habitat and finished at 9 PM.

The will be several parts to the training. It began by talking about the need and set up of a business plan. A guest speaker from the University of the Netherlands Antilles in Curacao explained clear how to set up the business plan, the need to do so and why it is important to know your passion and goals. The group could follow the lesson on handouts and there was time for questions. There was a small break for a snack and drinks and to socialize, It was on time and well organized.

Two other more practical parts will be held on May 18/19. To participate sign up at the Chamber office at Kaya Grandi 67, phone (599) 717-5595 or by email at [office@kvkbonaire.com](mailto:office@kvkbonaire.com). (Source: Angliet)

► **The Security Affairs Department of the ING Bank**

has blocked 500 bank cards on Curaçao and Bonaire after complaints about skimming on the islands. As a precaution, the bank verified all the data from Curaçao and Bonaire which showed skimmers operating in seven locations. In addition the local Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) announced that a number of its clients had also been the victim of skimming. All customers who have "pinned" at one of these locations cannot receive more cash until they receive a new card.



► **The Tax Service (Belastingdienst) is looking for people they owe money to on Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire.** If you think you are owed money visit their office. The Tax Service still has a considerable number of refunds for which taxpayers have not applied for. This regards refunds for various types of taxes. The Tax Service does not have the required bank details to pay these refunds to the beneficiaries.

► **As announced, the tax service closed its cash registers as of 1 May 2015.** As of that day it was no longer possible to make payments at the tax office on Bonaire. All payments are to be made at a bank or on-line. However, it is trying to make the transition to bank payments as smooth as possible by making space available for local banks in the tax office to assist persons in paying their fees. Two banks (MCB and RBC) have helped taxpayers on several days by providing information about the most obvious and/or most



*This Airbus 340 was parked at Flamingo airport while its owner, a Middle East sheik was enjoying Bonaire's fishing and diving from three large power boats rafted at the town pier.*

inexpensive payment method. In response to a letter from the Unkobon Consumers Union, the Belastingdienst decided to open a temporary cash desk. This temporary cash desk will be opened until the 1st of June 2015 on working days from 9:00 through 11:00 hours. During a visit to this cash desk the objective will primarily be trying to assist clients as well as possible with the transition to payment via the bank. Also during this period the service desks of the banks will be available at the Belastingdienst from 9:00 through 11:00 hours.

► **Beginning May 18 WEB will have its cashiers and information desk in its new building on Kaya Gresia,** which is next to the RCN HQ off Kaya International. WEB payments do not have to be made through a bank or on-line, but they can.

► **InselAir is flying two flights per week from Curaçao to Havana starting July 3.**

The trip from Curaçao takes about 2.5 hours and will be made with a Fokker 70 jet plane. Introductory fares start at \$354. Tickets are on sale at any InselAir ticket office, via InselAir's Contact Centre and via local travel agents. Insel now flies to 23 destinations.

► **Women in the Caribbean Netherlands, at an average 25.2 years, become first-time mothers much earlier than women of the European Netherlands who average 29.4 years.** In the Caribbean

Netherlands 10% of the births are to teens, which differs significantly from the rest of the Netherlands at 1.3%. In Curaçao and Aruba 6.8% of births are to teens. The percentages vary by island in the Caribbean Netherlands: St. Eustatius, has more teen births than the other two islands. More than a third of the children born in 2012 in the Caribbean Netherlands, were to a single parent household, usually a single mother. About a third are being raised by a married couple.



► **Construction of the construction of the Papa Cornes Community School in North Salina is underway.** The construction is expected to take about a year. The new building will consist of sections for the Papa Cornes school, a nursery and a joint-use covered outdoor space available for shared use.

► **Three primary schools Kolegio San Luis Bertrian, Kolegio San Bernardo and De Pelikaan, have passed the Dutch School Inspectorate's basic quality inspection satisfactorily.**

Said a pleased Dutch State Secretary of Education Sander Dekker, "This is very good news; good news for the pupils at these schools that now get the education to which they are

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Our editor, Laura, is at San Francisco Hospital. She is expected to recover fully from the illness that hit her a month ago. Thanks to all who wished her well.

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Available on-line at:

[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com)

Printed Every Fortnight,  
On-line every day, 24/7  
Next edition printing on  
**Monday, June 8, 2015**

**Story and Ad deadline:**  
Friday, June 5, 2015

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (from page 2) entitled, good news for the teachers, school leaders and directors involved, who have worked very hard to achieve this result.”

More and more schools in the Caribbean Netherlands are getting their programs to the basic quality level. In 2013 Fundashon FORMA (Foundation for education, including adult education and social opportunity for young people) was first to achieve the level. The aim is that by 2016, as many schools in the Caribbean Netherlands as possible will have achieved the basic quality level.

► **A government-paid child allowance will be introduced in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.** This income-independent allowance will replace the compensation through taxes, the so-called ‘children’s discount’. Due to the change parents with the lowest incomes will benefit most.

At the moment, many parents with low incomes benefit little or not from children’s discount. People who have little or no tax to pay, will obviously receive little or no discount. These are the very people who need extra money the most.

All 5000 children on the islands will receive the child allowance. About 2000 of them will get direct benefit from the change. **The amount of the**

**monthly child allowance is set at \$38 USD per child.** The proposed effective date of the new measure is January 1, 2016.



► **It’s baby flamingo hatching time but this year with all these strong winds many baby flamingoes are getting blown away** from their feeding grounds and even out to sea where they will eventually die. Baby flamingoes are light brown. If you see one in the sea or on the road please try to save it. Most likely it will be exhausted and easy to catch. You can use a towel but remember that their legs fold the opposite way! Experts say the best place to take them is to the southern salt flats, south of Atlantis and the kite beach, across the road from the resort like buildings with the big generator.



► **The world record holder in free diving, Bonaire resident Carlos Coste (above), will try to establish a new world record** in the Deepsea Challenge between 17 to 27 June. He will dive to more than 145 meters (476 ft.) with one breath! It will be attempted on a floating platform anchored off the Plaza Beach Resort.

Throughout the event there will be several activities like diet and yoga workshops, tasting of super foods, free diving workshops, as well as video and photo exhibitions. *The Bonaire Reporter* will be covering the story in depth.

► **On Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> the Rotary will hold its annual Rally** starting at the Sport Hall on Kaya Amsterdam. Rally and BBQ tickets are available at Notaris Aniek H. Schouten, Akkermans Auto Supplies, It Rains Fishes Restaurant & Bar, BSC Pool and Spa and any member of the Rotary Club.

► **Don’t miss the Classical Music Concert at the Plaza**



*Keili-Shea Hunt, Daviena Winklaar, and Agatha dePalm three of the nurses who are taking care of Reporter editor Laura DeSalvo in the Sentibibu (Aloe) wing of the hospital*

► There are about 80 nurses working at our San Francisco Hospital that’s run by the Mariadal Foundation and last Tuesday, May 12, they were all **feted and congratulated by Mariadal Director Giovanni Frans for International Nurses Day** with the full Bonaire press corps on hand and a blessing by the pastor. The nurses were all given corsages and a big breakfast buffet. Three nurses, voted for by their peers, were awarded the Florence Nightingale pins. They are Annie Thode, Loreska Anthony and Junie Piar.

**Reporter editor, Laura DeSalvo-Classman**, currently a patient at the hospital, cannot say enough about the high level of professionalism and especially kindness beyond the call of duty that these inspiring women and men display. We on the island are so very fortunate to have such a fine hospital and outstanding staff. Pabien!

**Resort on May 28 at the Plaza Resort.** See page 13 and 19 in the last edition of *The Reporter* for info. ■ L.D/G.D.



**Sabadeco Crown Shores 3**

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# On The Island Since... November 29th, 2012 - Sheila Maria

“I was born as Sheila François at the main hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on July 8th, 1989. My mom is from Haiti and my dad from Curacao. The first three months of my life I lived in Haiti and then we moved back to Curacao where I was given my father’s surname, Maria.

I went to elementary school and there I learned Dutch. At home we spoke Creole and Papiamentu and Spanish I picked up from the TV. Once a year we went to Haiti which was mandatory because the boss said so! The boss was my grandmother. She passed away thirteen years ago, but she is still my hero; she was my everything. I’m sure that because of her we became strong women, for the women in my family accomplished way more than the men. Haiti is the poorest country in the world, but there are a lot of things that I am proud of: In spite of the fact that people are poor, they are always welcoming and singing, always ready to help you. If you feel sick people will come and cook for you and clean your place and they won’t expect anything back for it. If someone dies and leaves the children behind, other people will give the children food and a place to sleep, even if they are not related.

We would go to Haiti during the summer vacations in July and I would always celebrate my birthdays there. On July 14th we would join the pilgrimage to Sodo (*Saut d’Eau*), a small village, a secluded paradise with an amazing waterfall and mangos as big as the size of your head. It’s a large cultural event for both Catholic and Voodoo practitioners and for every Haitian, rich, poor or middleclass. It’s a giving back party, an offering to the Gods and the people and at the church there is a sermon held by the priest. We would go with a group of about twenty family members. It was a six hour drive from Port-au-Prince and we would rent big old American trucks to get there. We bought bread, eggs and chickens, live pigs, goats and cows and for the three days we would be there, we provided food for many, many people.

Long before, when we were still in Curacao, we would collect clothes and shoes to hand out in Sodo. We would stand on the trucks and my aunt, who was with the police, was carrying a weapon to be on the safe side. On one occasion there was this small boy who was standing way back in the crowd. He captured my eye and when everyone had gone I gave him my brand new Nikes. I’d never wear them because I didn’t like the colors. The boy took us to his humble house saying ‘thank you, thank you, thank you.’ A year later, again in Sodo, I went to the boy’s house and there, on top of a closet, I saw the Nikes and they still seemed new. His mom told me that he would only wear them to school and church and every time he’d wore them he would wash them thoroughly. It was one of my big lessons in life; I was about nine years old and it taught me to be grateful for all I had.

When I was thirteen I moved alone to Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The plan was that I would go a year ahead to start school, while staying with my uncle and his family, until my mom and my new baby brother, would follow. My mom and dad had separated. Well, a year later my mom called me to tell me she’d sent me a ticket for Holland where she and my little brother were moving. I



Sheila at work at Bellafonte

didn’t argue with her because I missed my mom a lot; I just wanted to be with her. So, we met in Holland and I was very happy. Then we started the Dutch life.

There were things that I loved but also some customs that I thought ‘Really?’ One of those things was that I would study at some Dutch girlfriend’s house for the whole afternoon and then at six, when dinner was served, I was asked to leave because they were going to eat! Hahaha! Seriously! I was shocked! In Haiti people have nothing but there is always an extra spoon to share whatever they have with you.

“... if you don’t steal someone’s bread and you are not selling yourself, any job is a job.”

The good thing in Holland was that they had a program for kids like me. I was almost fifteen and too old to start high school. So, first they sent me to a multi cultural school to learn Dutch. There I met the people who became my friends; my best girlfriend was from China, but I found also Ecuadorian, African, Iranian and Iraqi friends – we were from everywhere and very close. I spent a year at school and refreshed my Dutch. Then I was asked during a meeting with the school board, what it was I wanted to be. I told them I’d always wanted to work in tourism and so they offered me a seven year plan at Middle Professional Education. I finished in six years. I worked really hard. After I graduated I took a sabbatical year and went to work for Holland-America Line on *Ms Zaandam*, one of their cruise ships. I boarded in Seattle and did it for three months. Then I went back to Amsterdam where I became a tour guide for Tours ‘n Tickets and eighteen months later I went back to school; flight attendant school this time. When I graduated I couldn’t find a job; the economy had collapsed.

After seven months I found a cleaning job and I took it, because the way I grew up was like ‘if you don’t steal someone’s bread and you are not selling yourself, any job is a job.’ I only did it for a week and then I



Sheila at a friend’s house

bought a roundtrip ticket to Malaga, Spain, for 90 Euros and the same night I took off. At the airport in Malaga I called my mom to tell her where I was. I thought she would be mad but all she said was ‘Have fun and be safe!’ At first I had a great time, but the fact that I couldn’t see where I was heading for in life, the simple fact that I didn’t have a plan, made me very unhappy.

I went back to Holland and my mom suggested that it would be good to go to Curacao for a while and so I called my dad. His reaction was that he immediately wanted to build an extra room to his house especially for me. And that’s *she laughs* ‘depressed me

earth – or so it seemed. I had enough money to manage for a couple of months so I stayed calm and I rented a nice house with Re/Max. I paid everything in advance and started looking for a job. Every day I walked to town and one of the nicest things about Bonaire is that soon enough a lot of people knew my name and that I was looking for work. I found a job with Patrick Diepgrond at Carib Carrental, where I worked for eight months. Then I was called by Tempo that Hotel Bellafonte was looking for a full time front office employee. I got the job and I still love it! I’m two years with them and I’ve become the supervisor at the front office. We just hosted the Royal Couple and it was an amazing experience, especially because I am a big fan of the Dutch Royal Family!

I am a workaholic and my social life still has to grow but I do enjoy Bonaire a lot. I think I will stay here – at least for a while. I am twenty-five – and I do feel I grew up too quick. Luckily I spent my teenage years in Holland; a country which gave me a lot of freedom and space and it definitely opened up my mind and my way of thinking and so, thanks to Holland I can say ‘This is who I am and I am proud of it’.

For now, I’m going on vacation first and when I come back I will start saving up to maybe build a house here. After that I will see where the wind takes me – I am young and life is full of possibilities.” ■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



to no end because I saw myself still sitting there in that room when I was forty...

So, I sent out my resume to Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, St. Martin and the US and two days later my mom had a dream in which she saw me at the airport on Bonaire. And then I was offered a job on Bonaire!

When I arrived, the person who had hired me never responded to any of my phone calls or e-mails. He’d disappeared from the



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## Word on the Street

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

**E**mpire Cinema, the new indoor/outdoor movie theater in Hato, has decided to start showing movies in their outdoor cinema although they do not yet have their food & beverage license. So you can enjoy the movie but no snacks or drinks. Movie titles, dates and times from May 14-20 can be found on their Facebook page: Empire Cinema. Some movies in Dutch only, some in English with Dutch subtitles. They advise to bring a sweater because of the wind. ➔



• **Did you feel the Earth move?** A 4.8 earthquake occurred in Maicao, Colombia last week. That's only 276 miles from Bonaire.

• **The Bonaire shuffle:** Cafe del Mar, opened by Don de Leone formerly of Karel's Beach Bar, has had a name change and a management change. New name is 't Ankertje (the anchor), Bula has no word on who the new owner is. You can now find Don behind the bar at El Mundo.

• **Police report that during the week of May 4 a burglary occurred at Registro Sivil/Civil Registry/Bevolking. They report blank travel documents and cash were stolen.** Local media reported that the "blank travel documents" were blank emergency passports used most often when off-island emergency medical attention is needed and the patient does not have a valid passport.

• **Residents are reporting that the lines at the bank are longer than usual lately.** Perhaps due to the inability to pay taxes at the tax office now that the cashier windows are closed? Reportedly the tax office is only advising people how to pay at the banks and not accepting payments. No reports yet on where to go when you need to get your license plate stickers. Hope they figure that out by July when the half-year tags are issued. Are the banks going to hire more cashiers to handle the tax payments??? Speaking of which, to deposit money to a third party bank account the banks charge you a fee. So now you not only have to pay your taxes, you have to PAY to pay your taxes

• **There's a new beer in Bonaire: Bonaire Blond.** According to their "commercial" on Facebook, It's a pale beer, with "hints of lime and aloe vera." For now, the Dutch-brewed beer being served at a few bars and restaurants like At Sea, La Cantina, Little Havana and Hang Out Beach Bar. We haven't tried it, but if the beer is as good as the commercial, it's fabulous ■ *Bula Bonchi*



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Florence, Italy

**H**ere are TCB "Ambassadors"

Roger and Karen Hamilton from Orlando, FL, about to have lunch with *The Reporter* overlooking Florence, Italy. You can just see the Duomo, the great Cathedral of Florence in the background on the right.

They spent the month of January in Bonaire and will be back for the first two weeks of June and then again for 3+ weeks in September. They've been coming to Bonaire since 1983.



## La Vinuela in Andalucia, Southern Spain.

**S**imon Hepburn writes, "Enclosed is a picture of my partner Sue Francis reading *the Bonaire Reporter* alongside the reservoir at La Vinuela in Andalucia, Southern Spain. We had returned from Bonaire just two weeks earlier. It was Sue's first ever visit to the island even though it was my 13th trip there.



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### BAIT BALL BLUES

Dear Editor:

I have a story that I hope *The Reporter* will follow. There's been a fantastic bait ball at Bachelor's Beach for the last couple of weeks and again, I see NC (Curacao) registered boats and their nets showing up to net these fish. The nets are already out and breaking coral as of yesterday and the Marine Park is doing nothing to stop this. It is so sad to watch what should be a very forward thinking organization ignore a fishing method that kills by catch and ruins reef structure. Below is a copy of the email I have sent to the Marine Park. I've also included one of my photos of the bait ball from last week. I would hate to see these beautiful scenes gone from Bonaire's waters. I hope *The Reporter* can bring some attention to this situation.

*To the Marine Park:*

As a diver and professional underwater photographer, I love diving Bonaire. The establishment of the Marine Park has kept Bonaire's reefs beautiful for the 20 years that I have been visiting the island. As a property owner on Bonaire, I have always been proud to bring friends to dive in the Marine Park. In the last couple of years, I have witnessed several tragedies in Bonaire that could have been prevented. In June of 2013, The Digital Shootout, run by



Backscatter was held at the Divi Flamingo in Bonaire. The event brings fantastic exposure to the island and it's diving by the largest underwater photography company in the world. While they were on the island, a large school of scad or masbangos were under the town pier. Divi arranged with the harbour master for their boats to go there and while diving there a group of fisherman from a Curacao licensed boat threw rocks on the divers and tried to shut their air off because they were trying to net the fish. It left a horrible taste in the mouth of all of those who witnessed this and I stayed silent, thinking what can really be done, who would come to run these Curacao fishermen away. I know the organizers of the Digital Shootout are now looking for other locations for their event. Then, just this past week I have enjoyed some of the most epic diving I have ever seen in Bonaire. There's been a bait ball of scad just off of Bachelors' Beach. It has provided video and photo content that I will use to sell and promote diving in Bonaire and of course there are now fishermen with their nets sitting on top of it and

one of them is an NC register. Bonaire's Marine Park has always been forward thinking in conservation, but if these fishermen are allowed to net these bait balls and the by catch associated with them, pretty soon there won't be any more bait balls. When they are netted they don't even leave one fish behind. It is with a very sad heart that I write this letter begging you as an organization to remember why you were founded, to protect the reef and the fish that live on it. Without the little fish, the big fish will starve too. Please do something before it's too late! It's time to stop allowing nets in the Marine Park and it's time end Curacao fishermen overfishing our waters as they have theirs.

Hoping for your help,  
Jennifer O'Neil

### STINAPA RESPONSE

STINAPA received several anxious phone calls from people who were concerned (even fishermen) about the fishing net which was put out at Bachelor's Beach. Fishing with these types of casting and dragging nets is not against the law.

To dispel all doubts, STINAPA decided to take action and checked the net inside and out for illegalities. Marine Park rangers assisted the fishermen in removing the net from the coral as to not cause further damage.

The owners of the net were briefed by the STINAPA Chief Ranger on the following issues they should pay attention to:

- At all times someone must be present at the net.
- Every two hours someone must take a swim round the net to make sure there are no turtles tangled in the net.
- If a turtle is stuck in the net then it must be untangled immediately and released.
- If a turtle or other protected species dies in the net, the net will be confiscated by the STINAPA Bonaire National Marine Park rangers.

STINAPA is very concerned about these type of nets that can cause considerable harm to nature.

The law specifies that at the big piers in Playa it is not allowed to put out a net and also not in front of the marina's at Plaza Resort and Harbour Village.



### SEWER SMELL AND MORE

Dear Editor:

I had the kloaka do their work in my garden and now we have a big stinking problem next to the bedroom window of a renter. This renter is sleeping in the stinking smell of faeces because they made square concrete thing under the window where all the faeces (poep) goes through. I had all plastic CLOSED pipes and plastic lids that I opened if I had to to check. NEVER did we have cockroaches. Well, because of the terrible smell I opened a tile lid that them put on top of this square (putje) and 100 cockroaches came running out. Never ever did I have cockroaches in my pipes. I took roots out with my hands for many years with gloves on, not ever did one cockroach come out, because everything was CLOSED. Now they created an open sewer in my garden at all the houses. And so I will lose renters, who wants to live in a stinking place with cockroaches. NOW I really regret very much that I went along and had them do this. Now I am very sad. All my life I worked very hard for all I have got and in a week they destroyed the value of my property. I advice everybody to NOT be connected. I wish I had followed my instincts.

*Therese*

### WHY FOR THE MARINE PARK

Dear Editor:

WHY can't the Bonaire Park folks put a proper step or two at the bottom of 1000 Steps dive site?  
WHY can't the Bonaire Park folks replace the missing ladder rung at Oil Slick Leap dive site?

I would think that the fee we pay for our Park tags would help support diving safety?? Thanks for listening,

*Peg Hart*

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# A Garden? Just Do It!



**Ronde-birambi (sour-cherries)**

Ever heard of the Verrhoa Bilimbe and her sister Star fruit or Verrhoa Carambola? And the half sister the Grosella? They all grow on Bonaire. You don't see them that often but that's why I want to focus your attention for them.

Let me start with the Verrhoa Bilimbe, called in Surinam Birambi, also known as Tree Sorrel, Cucumber Tree, Bimbling Plum, possibly originating in the Moluccas, Indonesia.

The tree reaches 5-10 m height. Its trunk is short and quickly branches out. The seeds in the fruit grows easy and very fast and after about two years the young plant starts fruiting. Water daily until they become grown up trees.

#### What to do with this fruit?

Uncooked birambi is often prepared as relish. Cooked one can make birambi curry chutney or cook it with a *daal* (Indian soup). Its juice and syrup make a nice iced drink.

And don't forget birambi jam, which adds taste to cakes and pies, in yogurt

and milkshakes.

In certain Creole dishes it gives a tangy flavor especially for fish dishes. Its used to clean fish too. Also to take fruit spots and rust spots out of white clothes. Just rub the ripe birambi over these spots and let them stay in the sun. For sure the ugly spots will disappear.

#### Homeopathic Applications

Its good against arthritis, high blood pressure and skin problems.

In the Philippines the leaves serve as a paste on itches, swelling, rheumatism, mumps or skin eruptions and its also used for bites of poisonous creatures. The flower infusion is used for thrush cold and cough. A leaf infusion is used as an after-birth tonic.

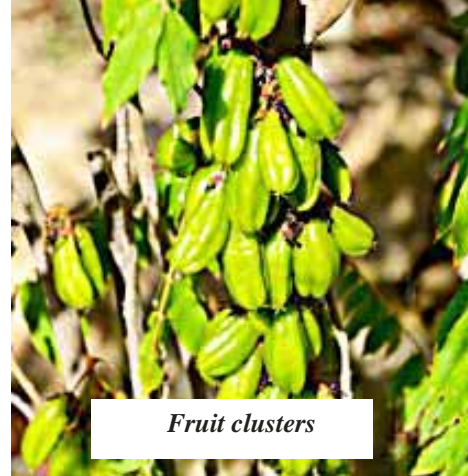
Syrup made from the fruit is used to treat inflammatory conditions and its also used to control obesity. In Indonesia its red flowers are sought as the ingredients of natural red dye for traditional textiles.

#### The Carambola or Starfruit

The Averrhoa Carambola comes also from Asia and its now very popular in the Americas. The entire fruit is edible and is usually eaten out of hand but may also be used in cooking and can be made into relishes, jam and used as a juice in ice drinks.



**Ripe starfruit**



**Fruit clusters**

Its closely related to the bilimbi and there are two types of it. The small sour type and the larger sweet type. The sour variety has a higher oxalic acid content than the sweet type. Some of the sour varieties can become sweet if allowed to ripen.

#### Benefits.

Carambola is rich in antioxidants, potassium and vitamin C and low in sugar, sodium and acid.

But be careful. Carambola contains Caramboxin and oxalic acid, both substances are harmful to individuals suffering from kidney failure, kidney stones and those under kidney dialysis treatment.

Like the grapefruit, carambola consumption in combination with certain prescription medications can significantly increase their effective dosage within the body.

Carambolas grow in tropical and semi

tropical areas. Its main fruiting is twice a year and it can produce 90 to 180 kilos of fruit a year. Like the bilimbi the more acid sour types can be used to clean rusty or tarnished metal as well as bleach rust and fruit spots from clothes.

The Portuguese word "Carambola" was derived from Marathi Karambal derived from Sanskrit: Karmaphala.

Other names are in Surinam Fransman Birambi, in English Starfruit, Sternfrucht in German, Kamrakh in Hindi, Yang Tao in Chinese.

#### The Grosella or Goose Berry

The Grosella or Goose Berry is well known on St Maarten as Sour Cherry and in Surinam as Ronde Birambi. It is also a sour fruit, family of the two mentioned fruits above.

In Surinam we stew it with sugar and cinnamon and it becomes a delicious dish. Also as a relish and jam is nice to eat and juice can be made of it too.

These three trees looks alike so if you see plants of them ask clearly which one it is before you buy one and plant it. You don't need a big space for them. A small corner in your yard will be good. Birds love the carambola and when the wind blows hard the fruit drops easily.

And remember, you don't need Clorox anymore. With these fruits you have your natural bleach in your yard. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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# Golf Club Piedra So

ROCKY GOLFING ON BONAIRE



Photo: Marianne Schoemaker

Volunteers maintaining the golf course

It is called "Bonaire's best kept secret." Hardly anyone knows about the possibility to play golf on Bonaire and if people know, they think it is not really a serious game you can play here. But in fact there is a golf course of 18 holes and a group of people seriously enjoying it.

### History

About 20 years ago Bonaire school-teacher Artie de Vries laid the first foundation for what would later be the PiedraSo golf course. He had learned to play golf in the Netherlands and wanted to keep on practicing while living on Bonaire. He looked for a place where no one could see him and ended up at the east coast on a piece of land that happened to belong to the owner of the chicken farm, Wien Emerenciana.

First he made an improvised course with old tires. Later on architect Harm Streefkerk, who is an architect, helped to create a real course. Harm had already made a golf course on Curacao, so he really knew how to make it happen. He even used an airplane to position the holes in the best way possible. Once the course was made, gradually the golf club started: the board got installed and took care of the organization and members came to join. At this moment there are 34 members and the board consists of 3 persons: Welmoed and Theo v.d.Veen and Beb v.d. Berg. They organize tournaments every first Sunday of the month and take care of the maintenance together with volunteers.

(Continued on page 15)

# AWARE Of Litter

## Youngsters To Draw Attention To Litter

The Tene Boneiru Limpi (Keep Bonaire Clean) Foundation is organizing a youth event on the 30th of May 2015 in partnership with Selibon, Boneiru Duradero and Plaza Resort Bonaire. The main goal is to create awareness for the growing amount of litter in the streets of Bonaire.

All youngsters ages 12 to 25 are invited to join a two-hour clean up event on Saturday May 30th. All succeeding to pick 10 kg of litter on Saturday morning will receive free entrance to an incredible dance party in the evening.

On Saturday morning all groups need to meet at 8.30 AM at Plasa Medio Ambiente (Selibon) Kaya Industria 20. Groups will receive water, healthy snacks, garbage bags and work gloves. Then groups will either be transported or use their own means of transportation to go to the clean up site. All of the collected litter will be weighed when groups return to Plasa Medio Ambiente. The group that has collected the most litter will win a special VIP treatment for the Dance Party.

The free Dance Party will be held at Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire. DJ MARVV, DJ Chris Beat and DJ Veloce will get the party started at 9.00 PM and keep it going until 1 in the morning. The only way to join this unique dance event



Participating DJs

is to participate in the clean up activity, since the entrance tickets are not for sale!

Signing up for the Clean up

On May 6 and 7 AWARE will be visiting the high schools: Liseo, SGB and MBO with a pre-event during the morning break. DJ MARVV will give students a little taste of what to expect of the Dance Party on May 30th. Students can fill out a form and sign up for clean up event right away or register by email and send their name, phone# and number of people in their group to: [c.cranston@selibon.com](mailto:c.cranston@selibon.com)

Aware is made possible a large group of sponsors: Bon Kousa, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Dasani, Van den Tweel Supermarket, Bonaire Logistics, Kooyman, Massive Productions, Rento Fun, Flamingo Communications, Young & Talented, Selibon and Boneiru Duradero. AWARE is also receiving support from STINAPA's Junior Rangers. The Junior Rangers will promote AWARE amongst their peers and they will also guide groups during the clean up event. ■ *Press release*

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# The Unofficial Bonaire "Salt" Marathon

FUNDRAISER FOR ECHO BONAIRE

With wind gusts reaching 33 knots and the sun beating down at 27°C (81°F) degrees I couldn't have picked a harder day to attempt my first marathon. I had anticipated being in the United States with my wife by now and I had even signed up for a marathon in Maine on May 10th. However, it soon became apparent that I wasn't going to be in the U.S. and wouldn't be able to compete in the marathon. So it only seemed fitting to do it on Bonaire instead, considering the many hours I've trained here since I started running 1½ years ago. You may have seen me out on the salt pans, on the boulevard, on Lagun road, on Seru Largu or exploring streets or trails sometimes getting lost!

And now that there is a marathon on Curacao I thought why not Bonaire? So I worked out a route that started nearby the old, derelict hotel that went towards the roundabout by Bonaco Gas Station and continued up Kaya Industria, then at the roundabout turning off to Kaminda Sorobon and looping the whole South of the island past the lighthouse and slave huts all the way back to the finishing point at the Bonaire Rent a Car office by Bonaco Gas Station.



Clark Heijbroek Marathon Man

I started out at 3.30 pm with my mother, Marijke, on a Dutch bike carrying supplies, and Sarah (Echo Bonaire), on a mountain bike providing me with the needed supplies and my friends Alex and Chip, recording the whole event with their jeep. Immediately the wind posed a problem. Around mile 3 along airport beach it was so hard

my mother was blown off her bike along with her glasses! She had to go and get a pick up truck (we assumed there would be no problem as she had supported me before on bike so I could run the Bonaire Walk-A-Thon). Other friends Lily (Echo Bonaire) and Lisette joined on bikes around this time. Running up Kaya Industria directly into the wind was exceptionally hard and I started to wonder what I was getting myself into! As I passed a snack bar on Kaminda Lagun I started to imagine myself sitting there drinking a Polar.

The miles wore on with intermittent relief provided by cold ice water, the chat of my friends, sometimes being sung to, and wondering where the film crew would be next (at times in the sea, behind rocks, on the road, up high on vantage points)! With my stomach hurting and not being able to breathe well it was a serious struggle. I continued along reaching the salt pans at mile 20 where the real problems started to kick in - my stomach ache was excruciating and my legs started to cramp. Prior to this I had been training in the cool hills of Jamaica for three months, so the weather and flat surfaces were a shock.



The final push... as darkness falls

I had to stop and stretch out the cramps about five times with the invaluable advice of physiotherapist Sarah and changed my running form to compensate. Then as it became dark I just had to hobble on. At this point my mother drove alongside me on the verge to create a windbreak. At Hotel Roomer my fellow Scotsman David joined to cheer me on. By now I was really suffering. I couldn't see an end in sight. But the finish drew closer as I plodded onwards. Finally I was on the stretch by the back entrance of Plaza and on approaching the Bonaire Rent a Car office (sprinting in my mind but in reality I was moving at a snail's pace). I realized I still had 0.2 miles to complete (a marathon is exactly 26.2 miles) and had to run past the office where friends of my parents had congregated as a surprise!

I completed the marathon in an

unimpressive 4.30 hours which was a lot more than my aim of between 3.30 to 4 hours but given the conditions and the fact that I could barely walk four days prior with a fever I was still over the moon! I was met by a rowdy Dutch group singing songs and an improvised toilet paper finish line to run through!

I raised \$1,028.00 for Echo Bonaire with help of all those supporting me and would like to thank the following for pledging:

Main sponsor: Bonaire Rent a Car Other sponsors: Bonaire Reporter, Ecolodge Bonaire, Green Label, Bonaire Sign Studio and friends and family.

The question now is when will we see the first official Bonaire marathon? Happy running! ■

Clark Heijbroek

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## Bonaire's New Heritage Museum Tanki Maraka



Commissioners Clark Abraham, Benito Dirksz, Dr. Haviser, Bonai members and others at the opening

The Tanki Maraka Heritage Park opened early this month. The island's newest outdoor museum is located on the spot where American soldiers were stationed during World War II.

An American radar base was first established in Bonaire during 1942. It was a top secret project with the intention of detecting and stopping Hitler's U-boat operations in the Caribbean. Hitler was well aware of the Allies transporting fuel from South America in convoys across the Caribbean to the US and Europe. Shell and Lago had refineries in Curacao and Aruba, The Germans didn't want to destroy the refineries because they hoped that after having won the war they could use these facilities. The majority of the aviation gasoline used by American planes in Europe was refined in Aruba.

The military base set up by the Americans was dismantled in 1947, two years after WWII ended, everything removed, the wood sold...and some even say it was used to build the former Cambes building on the Kaya Amsterdam.

This site was brought to the attention of Haviser in the early 80's by three local men, Boi Antoin, Rudy Domacasse and Rodger Gijbertha. In 2007 Haviser as founder of Bonai (Bonaire Archeological Institute) started the dig with students involving them in actual excavation, design and museum set up to raise their general awareness of the past. Other examples of Bonai efforts are the Brides whale skeleton at the National Park Washington Slagbaai entrance and the heritage museum at Fort Oranje..

Archeologist Jay Haviser hopes to amplify the Tanki Maraka experience by creating a trail following WWII sites on Bonaire which played an important role during WWII. Examples of other 'special' sites are the original Airfield across the street on the road towards town, land house Guatemala, the Flamingo Beach Hotel (Zeebad) that served as an internment camp during the war and the Chi Chi Tan Museum in Rincon.....Tan worked as a carpenter at the base during the war.



Information sign

Over 100 people attended the official opening on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Present along with government officials, sponsors were the three men that drove this initiative:

Dr. Jay Haviser, Hubert Vis, and the newly named island commissioner Clark Abraham and Benito Dirksz. cut the opening ribbon

Tanki Maraka is a 4-hectare (10-acre) open area with 36 signs in Papiamentu and English, printed digitally on Plexiglas describing the sites on the museum grounds. The signs were donated by Maggie and Frans Booi. The magnificently designed and built signs tell the story so that a chapter in Bonaire's history can be shared by Bonaireans, students and tourists.

For example you learn that the camp, design was most likely done Walsh and Driscoll, the company that engineered many wartime projects around the world for the US military.

The impact this camp had on Bonaire socially and culturally was huge....but I will not reveal all, you will have to take a stroll for yourself and see how this all played out.

Thanks to The Island Government, Stinapa, Skal, ICG, Maggie and Frans Booi, the "Tanki Maraka Heritage Park" is open daily and admission is free. ■

Story and photos by Christy Dovale



Cover Story

Seoul, Korea and Kralendijk, Bonaire have something in common: they both have Woodstock-themed music bars!

When Marloes and Eric Boots opened their Woodstock Bonaire Music Café downtown last week, it was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for both of them. Having been a DJ since age 18, Eric had a "small dream to have a music bar playing my own music." For Eric, that music of the baby-boomer generation, the classics of the 60's, 70's, and 80's, was epitomized by Woodstock, the 1969 music and art fair held at Max Yasgur's farm near Bethel, in upstate New York, featuring Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, Ten Years After, Richie Havens, Joan Baez, and many others.



Marloes and Eric Boots

So when Eric was deciding on a name for Bonaire's new music bar, the "three days of love, peace, and happiness" at Woodstock that symbolized a generation was a natural. At age 15, Marloes was dressing like a flower child and immersed in hippie culture and music; almost 40 years later, she has used that experience to design a "flower power" ambience that may make baby-boomer customers feel like they died and went to heaven.

After job and life changes in 2004, Marloes and Eric decided to pursue another dream—move to Bonaire and build a little resort in Tera Cora—the Chill-Out, famous for singing contests, movie nights, and other unique activities. They kept hearing "people our age" complain that there was "nothing to do" for their generation on Bonaire. And when Eric would sit in as a DJ at Jibe City, the crowd told him again and again how much they loved the musical era he covered. So when they finally found the perfect building to buy, near the waterfront where Cappriccio used to be, they jumped at the chance to "re-create" a little Woodstock on Bonaire.

Spending months on bringing their dream bar to life, Eric and Marloes have paid incredible attention to detail in what is clearly a labor of love. First, the centerpiece of the bar itself is the actual front of a Transporter 2 VW bus where Eric is the DJ in charge playing vinyl records on turntables fueling an audio system that is an acoustic triumph. The Beatles, Doors, Jimi Hendrix, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, Bruce Springsteen, Supremes, James Brown have never sounded better. Then there is the wall behind the bar composed of shards of beach coral poured into a wire-mesh container and lit up by all the psychedelic colors of the rainbow generation. On the floor is a mosaic peace sign that Marloes constructed herself piece by piece with the words "Woodstock Bonaire". Everywhere you turn there is a new detail to notice: scuffed natural wood floorboards; a profusion of purple, blue, yellow, orange, and pink on the walls and furniture; a "flower power" screen for music videos and concert footage; a Woodstock T-shirt framed and hanging on a wall; even a ceiling light fixture sculpture made from the body of a VW Beetle. But the *pièce de résistance* is an actual 1968 Wurlitzer jukebox where single records of nostalgia can still be played. One satisfied customer was local musician Terence de Haseth who proclaimed, "The music sounds good—it's the classics!"

In the weeks to come, there will be a tapas menu served from a newly opened kitchen and "live" music performances on a small stage. For now, there are special Dutch spare ribs on Sunday and happy hours from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. And perhaps one day soon the 1970 documentary film on Woodstock will be shown to commemorate the event that galvanized a generation. And Joni Mitchell's famous Woodstock lyrics will resonate perfectly:

*"By the time we got to Woodstock  
We were half a million strong  
And everywhere there was song and celebration  
And I dreamed I saw the bombers riding shotgun in the sky  
And they were turning into butterflies  
Above our nation." ■*

Story by Pauline Kayes → wearing a Woodstock shirt



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" Bonaire fisherman standing in ankle deep water in front of his local fishing boat—he fished out of Playa Pabou until recently"

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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>Mon 18</b>	00:36 0.99 ft	09:20 -0.28 ft	14:39 0.14 ft	18:29 0.07 ft	New Moon	6:11	18:53
<b>Tue 19</b>	01:28 0.99 ft	10:16 -0.33 ft	16:06 0.18 ft	19:31 0.14 ft		6:10	18:53
<b>Wed 20</b>	02:21 0.96 ft	11:06 -0.36 ft	17:11 0.24 ft	20:43 0.19 ft		6:10	18:54
<b>Thu 21</b>	03:12 0.91 ft	11:51 -0.36 ft	18:01 0.30 ft	21:59 0.23 ft		6:10	18:54
<b>Fri 22</b>	04:01 0.85 ft	12:30 -0.35 ft	18:42 0.37 ft	23:10 0.25 ft		6:10	18:54
<b>Sat 23</b>	04:47 0.78 ft	13:06 -0.32 ft	19:18 0.42 ft			6:10	18:54
<b>Sun 24</b>		00:18 0.25 ft	05:30 0.69 ft	13:37 -0.27 ft	19:51 0.48 ft	6:10	18:55
<b>Mon 25</b>	First Quarter	01:23 0.24 ft	06:11 0.60 ft	14:04 -0.22 ft	20:22 0.54 ft	6:10	18:55
<b>Tue 26</b>		02:27 0.23 ft	06:52 0.50 ft	14:28 -0.17 ft	20:51 0.59 ft	6:10	18:55
<b>Wed 27</b>		03:32 0.20 ft	07:33 0.40 ft	14:49 -0.12 ft	21:20 0.65 ft	6:09	18:56
<b>Thu 28</b>		04:40 0.15 ft	08:19 0.30 ft	15:07 -0.07 ft	21:49 0.70 ft	6:09	18:56
<b>Fri 29</b>		05:49 0.10 ft	09:12 0.20 ft	15:21 -0.03 ft	22:20 0.75 ft	6:09	18:56
<b>Sat 30</b>		06:59 0.03 ft	10:21 0.12 ft	15:29 0.01 ft	22:52 0.80 ft	6:09	18:56
<b>Sun 31</b>		08:03 -0.05 ft	12:01 0.06 ft	15:25 0.03 ft	23:28 0.84 ft	6:09	18:57
<b>Mon 01</b>		08:58 -0.12 ft				6:09	18:57
<b>Tue 02</b>	00:06 0.88 ft	09:43 -0.19 ft			Full Moon	6:09	18:57
<b>Wed 03</b>	00:48 0.91 ft	10:22 -0.24 ft				6:09	18:57
<b>Thu 04</b>	01:33 0.92 ft	10:55 -0.28 ft				6:09	18:58
<b>Fri 05</b>	02:20 0.92 ft	11:26 -0.31 ft	18:21 0.22 ft	19:45 0.22 ft		6:10	18:58
<b>Sat 06</b>	03:09 0.89 ft	11:56 -0.32 ft	18:10 0.31 ft	21:56 0.25 ft		6:10	18:58
<b>Sun 07</b>	03:59 0.84 ft	12:25 -0.33 ft	18:33 0.42 ft	23:31 0.24 ft		6:10	18:59
<b>Mon 08</b>	04:51 0.75 ft	12:55 -0.33 ft	19:04 0.55 ft			6:10	18:59

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter  
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**The Bonaire Reporter**, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;  
Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Also available on-line at:  
[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) *Published every two weeks*

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Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

**Distribution:** Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

**Housekeeping:** JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Free listing in this directory for regular Reporter advertisers

## 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.

## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

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

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**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.

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## RESTAURANTS

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**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.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## REGULAR EVENTS

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

**Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

**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 Jato Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.
- **Tera Kora Ranch Market**—2nd & 3rd Saturdays- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items
- **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**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis DE TUIN on the road to Lac Bai. 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.

## Wednesdays

- **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information.
- **Divers' Night at Zazu Bar at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina**. Free house rum when you buy a coke.
- **Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours at the Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and their efforts to protect this endangered species. Book your private tour for \$30 per person (minimum of 2) through Flow: [info@flowbonaire.com](mailto:info@flowbonaire.com) Phone +599 788 4636. Or come to the weekly tour on Wednesday 4.30 pm. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill and bring good shoes as it is 'off road'. We invite you to enjoy Bonaire's nature!
- **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 [peejeesee@gmail.com](mailto: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 Crutita 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**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, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20am- Sunday School 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

**Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente**, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

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

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, May 23 -Concert** -The Classical Music Board Bonaire is organizing a concert on at 8 pm at Plaza Resort.

**May 21- 25- Sorobon Masters Windsurfing** at the Sorobon Beach Resort, World class multi-discipline windsurfing competition. For info email [organisa-tie@sorobonmasters.com](mailto:organisa-tie@sorobonmasters.com)

**Saturday, May 30— Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei, 8am—2pm**. Traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen

**Project Aware Clean-up and Dance Party**, see page 8.

**May 31 RotoRally** See page 3

**June 6, Kriabon Farmers' Market** at Kriabon, Kaminda Jato Baco#55, next to Aquamarine School, 8 am-1 pm

**June 12-14 - Paul Hedderman Talks**— more in the next issue

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# THE STARS HAVE IT

Second Half May 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You'll find it easy to deal with government agencies or large institutions. You may have a problem dealing with elders. This will not be the best day for communication or travel. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Sudden good fortune will help you cover your debts. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. You may interest some of them in a service you have to offer. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You will enjoy interacting with those who come from different backgrounds. You'll have great insight. Try to think things through. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangement's. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Art investment will pay big dividends in the long term. You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. Minor health problems may lower your vitality. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. You will attract new love interests. Electrical problems may be an issue. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can pick up information that will give you an edge. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. You can get your point across and make valuable connections. Try to make your lover understand that you need to do things with your friends.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Follow through on some of the good ideas that come up, and you could have a real winner of a deal. Put some energy into getting back into shape. Listen to reason. Call a good friend. You will not be able to trust someone you work with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Don't play on your partner's emotions. Compromise may be necessary. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You could be tempted to overspend on unnecessary items. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Catch up on correspondence. Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Family get-togethers will be interesting. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try to take care of the needs of those you love. Don't give in too quickly. Sudden romantic infatuations could lead to a significant and prosperous connection. Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let your personal partner hold you back or slow you down. Large organizations may try to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. You can make money if you work on personal investments. It's time to let loose. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## "THE WANDERERS"

Saturn will be at opposition this week, making it bigger and brighter than it's been all year. So this is a great time to get out in the Sky Park and look for The ringed planet. If you have a telescope, Saturn's rings will look exquisite as they are tipped toward the earth.

First let's find out how the planets got their names then we'll show you where to look for the ringed planet

Throughout human history, cultures around the world have made patterns out of the brightest stars. We call these patterns constellations, and the stars that form them appear fixed with respect to each other; gliding in unison through the night sky, from east to west.

For most of human history, there was no scientific explanation for what the stars were. So many cultures considered the stars as being divine. The motion of the stars through the sky was so predictable, that people could actually tell time based on the position of the stars.

However, there were a few peculiar lights that seemed to move among the stars; appearing in a different position each night. And not only would they move, but they would change their direction, their speed, their brightness, and even their color. These lights would even disappear for a while and then reappear.

The strange behavior of these lights prompted many ancient cultures to believe that these wandering stars were greater gods than the fixed stars, and their bizarre motions were messages from the gods expressing their pleasure or displeasure with the doings of man.

Ancient Greek astronomers referred to these wandering stars as 'Asteres Planetes', which we have shortened today to planet. We now define a planet as being a relatively large, spherical body that orbits a star, in our case, the sun. Our solar system has four rocky planets, four gas giant planets, and numerous icy dwarf planets. Given the godly history of the planets, each of the major planets is named after a character in Roman mythology.

For example, Mercury is named after the messenger of the Roman gods. He was known for his speed, and this planet lives up to its namesake. Mercury is travelling



over 100,000 miles per hour around the sun, and can complete one orbit in about 88 days.

Venus, the brightest and the most dazzling of the naked eye planets, was named after the roman goddess of beauty and love. However, its beauty is deceptive. Venus has one of the most hostile planetary environments we know.

Its atmosphere is poisonous to us and its surface temperature alone is hot enough to melt lead.

Mars, the red planet is special because of its dramatic change in brightness and color. The reddish color of the surface of Mars prompted many cultures to associate this planet with their gods of blood and violence.

Jupiter is our largest planet and is, quite fittingly, named after the king of the roman gods. This planet takes almost 12 years to orbit the sun, spending almost a year in each of the 12 constellations of the zodiac. Jupiter currently has 67 moons.

Saturn is the last of the naked eye planets. This planet was named after the roman god of agriculture who also happened to be Jupiter's father. Saturn is special because it has rings made of billions of pieces of ice, rock and dust that subsequently make them very easy to see, even with the smallest telescope. Speaking of Saturn, look up our sky around 9:00 pm any night this week, facing southeast.

To find Saturn, look southeast where you'll see it near the three stars at the top of the j-shaped pattern of stars that mark Scorpius the scorpion. As the night progresses, Saturn rises higher and higher, reaching its highest point in the sky around 1:30 am.

So there you have it. A little background on the wandering stars with a little planetary trivia thrown in for good measure. Dean: and they're all in the Sky Park waiting for you. ■ Dean Regas & James Albury



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# Pets of the Week Shelter News



New team member Ricus is posing with our Pets of the week: NINO (left) & NONJA (right)

First we would like to introduce you to Ricus, he joined the Animal Shelter team since the first of this month.

For Ricus it is important to make a change and try making the world a little bit better and to continue to help the animals and educate people. As a kick-boxing trainer and former company holder he has always been used to the same principals, the same as he does with animals "Give respect and you will get respect". There is a lot to learn from animals and specifically from dogs, not only how they behave but also how we as humans behave towards animals and can learn from them.

The dogs are healthy and full of life, sweet and well behaved and are looking for a forever home! Are you the lucky one who is looking for a great companion for life and can give these amazing animals attention and love?

Interested in adopting Nino or Nonja or even both of them, please come and visit the Animal Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26, or call for more information. (7174989). ■ Stories and photos by *Nathalie Peterson*

*Piedra So Golf (Continued from page 8)*

## Same, but Different

You can play the game of golf on Bonaire as you are used to anywhere else. Though, there are some differences. For instance, the local rules: you have to give way to animals. This means that if a goat or donkey passes by, you have to wait hitting the ball till the coast is clear. Donkeys are very useful though: according to the local rules you can use their poop to put your ball onto to avoid hitting stones. A second difference is that the golf course is ecological; no changes are made in the natural surroundings. Welmoed tells: "If a cactus grows in front of a hole, you have to deal with it and if nature changes, the course changes with it." Robbie Bouwman (one of the first members) made his reputation by dealing with a cactus in a different way: 5 years ago he hit a ball almost through a cactus, but it got stuck. The ball can still be seen in the cactus. This cactus with ball is also incorporated into the club's logo. As a consequence of the ecological choice there is no grass on the course, only sand and stones. Players have to adjust, the playing ground is not flat and you

can have some bad luck if your ball hits a stone. Also the wind is quite heavy on the coast. For Robbie that's just one of the reasons he likes to play there: it is difficult and nice and you have to improvise. He says: "If you can play golf here, you can play everywhere".

Interested? Usually playing golf is associated with elite and club dues are high. Not so with PiedraSo. It is affordable for all enthusiasts. The dues are just \$165 for six months. Members who are experienced like to help beginners to get started. Once every three months a professional golf teacher from Curacao is coming over for training sessions. After each tournament there is something to eat and drink in a nice and friendly atmosphere. There is no clubhouse, but there are containers in which members can put their golf bag trolleys. If you like to try it, you are very welcome to join. If you want to read more about this club or want to get into contact you can look at their website: [www.piedraso.com](http://www.piedraso.com) ■

Story and photo by *Justine Verschuur*



**BOOK FAIR & FLEA MARKET**  
**ON SUNDAY JUNE 7**  
 FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM  
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For sale: secondhand books, clothes and new pet products like toys, collars, leashes and much more for cats and dogs. Lots of fun for the kids and snacks and drinks will be available. Please visit the fair at The Animal Shelter and bring all your friends! All the funds raised will benefit the animal shelter.

## TIP & NEWS— Spay and Neuter

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 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.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire offers a free spay/neuter for the cats and dogs of Bonaire please visit the Animal Shelter, or call for more information. (717-4989)

If you have items that are in good, working and in saleable condition, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the weekly garage sale, call 7174989 or e-mail to: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)



The Pakus di Pruga is housed in the building across the street from Brandaris Café and is manned by volunteers from 8 am to 5 pm. And there's plenty of free parking! ■ *Nathalie Peterson*

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- perfect for starters
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- great investment opportunity
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