

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** August 17-31, 2015, Year 22, Issue 14  
**The REPORTER**  
*BES Island News Too*

**Schools  
Reopened  
Drive  
Carefully**

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# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER



**I**t seems that currently the traffic crossing “zebras” in Bonaire don’t have the same meaning as they do most everywhere in the world. In the US for example, if a pedestrian is in a “zebra” cars must stop and let the person(s) pass. Not so here in Bonaire. The Police Traffic Department observed that this difference is causing some confusion among the Bonaire drivers about the zebra crossings and the role that they play.

According to the current traffic regulation when there is a triangular sign with a red border at a designated crosswalk it is a warning of danger in the place where it stands. The current traffic regulation has no other sign of a crosswalk. The meaning of the sign at a crosswalk means that a driver must remember that this is a place where caution must be emphasized. Stopping is not required.

► In the second half of the 2014/2015 school year the Department Public Health Service (GGD) of Bonaire in collaboration with the VU University Amsterdam (VU), conducted a study of obesity among young people.

Seven Primary Education Schools and the SGB High School participated in the study. A total of 2,463 students, aged 4 to 16 years, participated in this study. Results

are expected by the end of 2015.

With this research, the Division of Public Health Service (GGD) hopes to get a picture of the prevalence of overweight among Bonairean adolescents and of the factors that may affect the weight of Bonairean youngsters.

During the study, the weight, height, waist circumference and blood pressure of the children was measured. In addition, the BMI (Body Mass Index) of children was calculated. BMI is a way to determine whether someone is overweight, according to international standards.

In addition to these measurements, the students aged 12 and older completed a questionnaire which asked about their eating, drinking - and movement pattern.

Obesity among young people (and adults) is a major focus within the public health of Bonaire. Commissioner Benito Dirks, in charge of the portfolio, Society and Care of the Public Body Bonaire, thanked all parties who contributed to the research.

► **Last month Customs confiscated 223.50 kilos of meat, 270 grams of cannabis, 18 cartons of cigarettes and a handgun.**

On July 1, 2, 7, and 8, 2015, during routine inspections of goods entering on fruit boats from Venezuela, members of *Douane* (Customs) intercepted goods that were not declared. Neither were import declarations made. As a consequence, the captains violated Customs regulations and were fined.

The goods included hundreds of kilos of meat and cartons of cigarettes. The meat and the cigarettes were transferred to the *Dienst Veterinaire Zaken* (Veterinary Affairs Service) for further investigation and destruction.

On July 21, 2015, Customs uncovered 270 grams of cannabis on a 33-year-old female passenger on a scheduled flight from Curaçao. On inspection it turned out that the woman had hidden the cannabis inside her body. The passenger was arrested and was handed over to KMAR (Royal Constabulary) for further investigation.

On July 28, 2015, during a routine inspection of incoming passengers on a scheduled flight from Curaçao luggage scanning detected a handgun and a plastic bullet pouch.

► **An independent and academic opinion survey will be conducted on all Dutch Kingdom islands between September 14 and October 31, 2015.** Your opinion about our Kingdom is important. So be sure to participate if you want to express your opinion on the effect of the 10/10/10 changes on our island.



The Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) is planning to conduct a large-scale opinion survey about the relationships within the Kingdom after the reforms of 2010. Local interviewers will visit various addresses on the island with a paper questionnaire. The interview is anonymous, can be conducted in English, Dutch, Papiamentu or Spanish, and will take about 20 minutes to complete. The results will be published later this year.

► **The 2016 Jong Bonaire Calendar is almost here** Delivery is expected September/October and cost is \$12.99 each with discounts for purchases of 25 calendars or more. Order now [jongbonairecalendar@gmail.com](mailto:jongbonairecalendar@gmail.com)

The annual calendar is an important fundraising project for Jong Bonaire and we hope you will participate with a sizable order.

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► **The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has launched their second annual Bonaire Fall Festival:** Dive-Dine-Discover program for fall travel. Visitors to Bonaire will have the opportunity to take advantage of the countless savings and added value exclusive to the fall season.

Numerous tourism partners are participating in the Bonaire Fall Festival and offering accommodation packages, unique excursions, underwater and topside activities and sumptuous culinary specials to help make Bonaire the top vacation spot to Dive-Dine-Discover this fall. The travel window for the fall program is August 22 - December 19, 2015. For more information on Bonaire Fall Festival, visit [www.tourismbonaire.com/fallfestival](http://www.tourismbonaire.com/fallfestival) and follow #BonaireValues on Twitter.

► **The Tax Inspector will be cracking down on businesses that are not paying the sales (ABB) and withholding (LB) taxes they should be.** The *Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland*

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(Dutch Tax Service) internal investigation has revealed that a group of business owners on Saba, Bonaire and St. Eustatius systematically fail to file their ABB and/or LB tax returns. The *Belastingdienst* has decided to form a team to contact these persons with the intention of offering the business owners the opportunity to still file their tax returns before the *Belastingdienst* takes further measures, which can lead to criminal prosecution.

In the coming period *Belastingdienst* employees will contact the business owners and/or their accountants by telephone, letters and visits. Business owners will consequently be informed of their declaration and payment obligations and will have the opportunity to still comply. By doing that, they will prevent further measures to be taken, which in the worst case may even include criminal prosecution.

Should you want more infor-

mation, please contact the *Belastingdienst* by phone via 715 - 8585 or visit website: [www.belastingdienst-cn.nl](http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl)

► **General Electric Company will supply its Procera\* water filtration equipment for WEB's seawater desalination plant expansion project in the Hato neighborhood** where the old power plant was located. The desalination plant is responsible for providing clean drinking water for the entire island. The new equipment should be operational this month.

The project is an expansion of Water and Energy Company Bonaire's (WEB) current desalination plant, which GE operates for the island's water and electric utility under a "build, own, operate" contract. The new, permanent facility will supply 1,600 cubic meters a day of desalinated water to meet the growing clean water needs for the island's residents and business.

“Our goal is to become self-sufficient with drinking water production and to support the growing needs of residential and business customers on the island,” said Alfredo Koolman, CEO of WEB Bonaire.

► **The Government of Bonaire has no problem with the investigations announced by**

the Dutch Ombudsman into the public body's handling of five complaints. However, the approach of the Ombudsman's accepting of complaints before the complainer contacted the agency he/she was finding fault with is contrary to the procedure in the European Netherlands.

During a press conference the Executive Council announced it would give full cooperation to the inquiry. The PDB/UPB coalition says it believes in transparency and proper governance. It was pointed out that 36,278 similar complaints were filed in the European part of the Netherlands last year.



► **Internet domain names with extension .AN were cut-off on July 31, 2015.** Because the Antilles were dismantled as a separate country, agreements were made on the abolishment of all internet domain names with extension .AN (Antilles).

Initially this was going to go into effect by October 31, 2014. At the request of stakeholders

(Continued on page 10)

**MORE AIR FOR BONAIRE**

Bonaire is getting much needed airlift for next season. Hopefully prices will drop a bit. There will be additional flights from Delta Air Lines and United Airlines for winter travel from Atlanta, Newark and Houston .

Delta will add two more non-stop flights to Bonaire from Atlanta beginning December 19, 2015. The southbound Delta flight DL665 will depart Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) at 9:45am and arrive at Bonaire International Airport (BON) at 2:45pm every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. The northbound return flight DL482 will depart Bonaire at 3:42pm and arrive at Atlanta at 7:05pm every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. The Tuesday flight will be removed for the winter lull (January 5 – February 9, 2016); then back to 3 times a week on February 13, 2016. The three weekly non-stop flights are slated to run through March 2016.

For United, their Newark non-stop flight to Bonaire will return early from hiatus on Saturday, September 26, 2015. During the holiday season, United will be adding extra flights to their Houston and



Newark schedules. From November 20 – December 1, 2015, the southbound United flight UA1402 will depart George Bush International Airport (IAH) every Friday and Saturday at 1:00pm and arrive at Bonaire at 7:45pm. The northbound return flight UA1401 will depart Bonaire every Saturday and Sunday at 7:30am and arrive at Houston at 10:25am. From December 11, 2015 – January 4, 2016, the southbound United flight UA 1422 will depart Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am and arrive at Bonaire at 2:37pm. The northbound United flight UA 1420 will depart Bonaire every Saturday and Sunday at 3:32pm and arrive at Newark at 7:27pm.

Now if only Insel air would resume its non-stop service to Miami, Bonaire travel to the US will be much improved. Source G.D/TCB

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# Born on Bonaire... July 9th, 1984 - Egbert 'Wimpy' Saragoza



'Wimpy' Saragoza and his beloved Oma Isabel Saragoza



Wimpy and two of his crew at work

From the moment I was born my grandmother, my 'Oma', **Isabel Saragoza**, took care of me. She was the one who taught me how to save money. She worked at the kunuku from when she was little, and with the goats, the chickens and the corn she earned her living and she saved up every penny.

We lived in Antriol Pariba: my grandfather, **Macario Saragoza**, my Oma, myself, a cousin, my sister and an uncle. Every day my grandparents put food for us on the table. It wasn't much but it was all they could afford and we grew up.

When I was eight I started working after school at a workshop where we made wooden souvenirs which were sold in a kiosk in town. Every two weeks I was paid 50 guilders. I worked there until I was 12, then my mama told me we were going to live in Holland. We moved in 1998 – my mama, my sister, my sister's father and me. I'd never been in Holland and my expectations were high; everything would be much better and we were going to be a real family! It was December. In March trouble started at home and after a couple of months I was into a lot of problems. I could not sleep at home anymore and when my aunt came to visit she noticed the situation was escalating. She told my Oma who immediately sent me a ticket to come back to Bonaire. Again it was December. It had been the worst year of my life and when I arrived here I was still with that vibe and I got into trouble again.

But it didn't take long because when I was 14, I got a job along with a friend of mine: mowing weeds at the airport Monday through Friday from 6am to noon. Every two weeks I was paid 1000 guilders of which I saved some. I lived at my Oma's – my grandfather had passed away on a Father's Day when I was 10 – and I couldn't go to school because I had to take care of my Oma and myself. I did that job until I was 17, then I started in construction until 2003/2004 when my mom told me they were coming back to Bonaire and we were going to set up our own company together with my stepfather. They did come back and we bought heavy machinery to do ground work, but it only lasted a little while because then my mother and my stepfather split up and that was the end. There have been two things this man taught my sister and myself: don't drink and don't smoke because it's bad for you. And up to

this day I never smoked or drank.

I went back into construction, then I met Ilse Felida who became my girlfriend. She had a child and the father of her child was **Anan Santani** who became a good friend of mine. He was working at Lion's Car Rental and said, 'why don't you start a car wash?' So I began washing cars for Anan and I bought some hoses and a small vacuum cleaner and I remember that month I only washed two cars! It was low season! Together with Ilse and my cousin **Sulay Lau** we started brainstorming about a business plan. Then Ilse told me she was pregnant. She didn't have job and I only had a few cars to wash, but **Poppy Henriquez** and **Patrick Diepgrond** and other car rental owners supported me by giving me work, and my Aunt Reina and my Uncle **Nazario** and even **Ilse**, who was heavily pregnant, were driving the cars back and

that issues business permits). Their answer was that the soap and waste water would be a threat to the environment, so my request was rejected.

But... I am someone who never gives up. Many people were supportive of me and my plan. They said, 'You are a child of Bonaire and you've been through so much, you are young and you want to set up your own company, what's the problem?' Then, a Dutch gentleman, **Tobi Rens**, the owner of **Eco di Caribe**, producer and distributor of ecologically responsible cleaning products, heard of me. He listened to my life story and he promised me he would get me a soap Deza would approve of. And with the soap he got me the paperwork that proved the soap is totally biodegradable and harmless and... in 2010 I got my permit.

wash 70 cars. That's what people don't see; the hardship, the effort it takes. I need some land to make a concrete floor and a roof to shelter my guys from the hot sun and to keep the cars free from dirt. I need it so we can grow and employ more people and be successful in the correct way – clear agreements, neatly arranged and well organized. And is it too much to ask from our own government to help us to achieve that?

I want to be an example for all those children who have a dream, because if you have a problem, don't run! Face it! Never give up and never lose hope, because one day you will succeed! If I would be still hanging out with my old friends I would probably be in jail right now or dead, but I am content and grateful that God helped me so I can feed my children every day and take care of my family.

My family and my children are number one. After the mother of my twins and I broke up I got into a relationship with **Reinisha Molina**. She helps me doing the administration of the company and is a great support to me. Together we have a two-year-old daughter, **Nishantalie**. I also have a son, **Zilan**, who is two years old, but he has another mother. My kids mean the world to me; they are my everything, and when it comes to it, they are my best friends, the people I trust most in my life, because they are mine. I spend a lot of time with my children and when I'm free I take my family out to sea with the boat.

To me Bonaire is the best although it has become frightfully expensive and the business owners are abusing the people because prices have not been adjusted to the income. Life has become harder and there is a lot of poverty, but I want to stay here. And when you're doing good, good will come to you.

I was raised without love and it was all about money, but when it comes down to it, money is nothing because today you have it and tomorrow it's gone. And when it comes to power; I don't think that other people can have power over you, for in the end only God has the power..” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



**“I've always noticed that when foreign people come to Bonaire it doesn't take them long to establish a business, while it seems very hard for local people to accomplish the same thing.”**

forth to the airport.

On March 7th, 2007, God blessed us with twin girls, **Sabelle and Isabelle**. I was so happy! I always wanted to have children because I wanted to give them the love I never got from my parents. But now I had two children and a girlfriend to take care of. Every day I washed cars at my Oma's house and my Oma helped me by building a roof to shelter me from the sun. Then I started thinking about a van, a mobile car wash.

When the children were one year old, Ilse and I broke up, but life went on and I did everything to take care of my children whom I saw every day.

Then I saw a van at the airport for 15.000 guilders. I told the owners about my plan and after a while the gentleman reduced the price to 9.000 guilders and again it was my Oma who helped me. In 2007 I submitted all the paperwork for my mobile car wash company to Deza (the government office

My company **Bonaire Mobile Car Wash & All-round Cleaner, BV**, is capable of cleaning almost everything; not just cars or vans or buses but also pools, houses, boats and what not. I painted my van with the Bonairean flag because I am Bonairean and I want to promote and support my island. I've always noticed that when foreign people come to Bonaire it doesn't take them long to establish a business, while it seems very hard for local people to accomplish the same thing. So now I know why, because it took me three years and a tremendous amount of effort to get my business started. I've endured a lot of opposition from the local government. And I am still not done with them because when I got the permit in 2010 I immediately applied for property across from the airport and to make a long story short, we still don't have it! What is it? Is it envy? Doesn't the government want their own people to be successful? Do they think it's easy? Well, it's not! We start at 5 am to

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Wakatobi, Indonesia



**L**ongtime *Bonaire Reporter* subscriber Peg Hart writes: "Geetings! Peg Hart here again with my husband Mike Guerin!"

In September 2014, we had an outrageous BUCKET LIST trip to Wakatobi Dive Resort in Indonesia. My brother-in-law, Denis Guerin, also made the trip with us. Diving was beyond our expectations. We got in 45 fabulous dives. Behind us is the resort jetty/dock/bar and some of the dive boats."

Please continue to keep sending "Picture Yourself" photos. We have a small backlog of submitted photos and will get more up-to-date by printing more than one per editions.

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter Lonneker, The Netherlands

**J**oop van der Hoek writes from The Netherlands: "This weekend we had a wonderful lady of Bonaire as our guest, Poppy Rodriguez, probably better known as 'Mama Smile', the grandma of our common grandchildren, Jurgen and Caleb, also living at Bonaire,."

In January 2013 we were visiting the island and took the *Bonaire Reporter* (January 11-25, 2013, Year 20, Issue 1) back home to Lonneker, our home in a small village of the Enschede community. This city is at the border with Germany.

A walk through our village brought us at the Lonneker Mill, still in use for the tourists, milling the flour you can buy afterwards to bake bread, pancakes etc., etc..

At this mill I made a picture of Poppy, so you can see she is still 'Mama Smile', even abroad and she has given me her permission to send this picture to you."



### WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) to be entered in our annual contest for the best picture. Be sure to include something about the place where it was taken and yourself.

Each year there is a new prize. Last year it was a fabulous dinner for two on the beach at posh Harbour Village's La Balandra restaurant. Take that photo today!

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# New Sports Shop

**DIVE FRIENDS' DUSHI STYLE SPORTS SHOP MAKES KAYA GRANDI A COOLER PLACE TO BE**

On Wednesday June 24, Dive Friends Bonaire celebrated the official opening of their Dushi Style Sports shop, located at Kaya Grandi #8 (Main Street), in Kralendijk. Some 75 guests enjoyed the celebration. After the opening the guests crossed the street to Cuba Compagnie where Dive Friends Bonaire invited them for drinks and snacks.

It took Pascal and Patrick months to convert the old dive shop in the main street of Bonaire into a top-of-the-line, modern, fresh looking and efficient sports shop. Now Dive Friends Bonaire has five dive centers/filling stations and three retail locations.

Antonia Juliana (working 12 years for the company), Ine Engelhart (2 years) and Marlene Thode (1 1/2 years) are very happy with the complete make-over of the old dive shop. Antonia: "Patrick and Pascal did a great job. We had to inhale and consume a lot of sawdust, but the final result is excellent. It is a pleasure to work in this air condi-



Shop staff Marlene Thode (left) and Antonia Juliana with Dive Friends' Carolyn Caporusso (center)

tioned shop with all the new products and equipment!"

Dushi Style retail is a true sports shop. Of course dive and snorkel gear are for sale, but there is also a variety of leisure wear, modern and vintage skate boards, caps and hats, sunglasses, shoes, balls and tennis gear. Brands are: Nike, Adidas, Speedo, Eastern Skateboard Supply, Under Armour, DC-shoes, RVCA and Body Glove.

Dive Friends' new sports shop has the biggest collection of sports articles on the island. Dushi Style makes Kaya Grandi a cooler place! ■ Story by Jan Brouwer, Photo Laura DeSalvo

# We Cleaned Up The Reef



**DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE ORGANIZED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CLEAN UP DIVE** Kralendijk/Bonaire –

A recent Saturday's one-hour, non-deco cleanup dive in the underwater world around the Kralendijk main pier yielded no less than 1063 items. Among them were 24 full bottles of Venezuelan Zulia beer, one fancy dress, one phone, one potted palm tree, two sunglasses, one bank card and a ship's rat guard. (Something round to install over the huge mooring ropes of a ship to prevent rats from entering the vessel/jb.)

Dive Friends Bonaire again organized this quarterly clean up dive. In the pre-dive meeting at the Yellow Submarine location at Playa Lechi, Asko Zuidam informed the volunteers about the safety of diving and the rules to obey in the water to preserve nature. Free air was supplied by the company. Loads and loads of divers found their way to collect debris under and around the pier.

After the clean-up dive a pot luck barbecue was organized. During the captain's meeting all divers were asked by Asko to put as much love as they could in their side orders and deserts. A raffle was held. Meat and a drink were supplied by Dive Friends Bonaire. Sunset and ambiance were splendid and provided by nature. Happy divers, excellent food. Thank you, volunteers, thank you Dive Friends Bonaire. And remember: without blue there is no green! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



# Kaile Finies Off To The USA to Study



Kaile on the tennis court

**Kaile Finies**, 18 years old, raised on Bonaire and a former Liseo Bonaire 4VVO student, recently graduated from Laurel Springs Private Online High School in California with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She has been offered a membership to the National Society of High School Scholars, NSHSS\*.

She will attend ULM, the University of Louisiana in Monroe, LA this fall, 2015, majoring in **Fine Arts**, and a minor in **Psychology**. She has received a partial Academic Scholarship from ULM and will join the Division I **Women Tennis Team**.

Kaile's family, especially her parents, James Finies and Elisabeth Vos, are extremely proud of her accomplishments and wish her success in her new adventures. ■ G.D./Press release



Local Student Kaile Arantxa Elisabeth Finies Receives National Honor

\*ATLANTA, GA --May 22,2015- The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) today announced Laurel Springs School student, Kaile Arantxa Elisabeth Finies from Kralendijk, has been selected to become a member of the organization. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community commitment.

The announcement was made by NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.



Exhibiting her work at the annual SGB art show

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### TRAPPED IN THE WEB

Dear Editor:

Just to let you know:

WEB have plans making it impossible or totally economically irresponsible for households to invest in solar panels. (Solar power would ) Only be interesting for those who consume what they produce during day time (businesses, shops and other day time consumers).

WEB are on a "raid" to households with solar panels on their roof by changing all meters to digital. The digital meter do not run backwards so households can produce electricity during the day (free of charge to the grid), but can NOT use the same amount during evening/night.

Well, actually the digital meter do run backwards, but WEB will not let you know what you produce during the day with you solar panels. Most households have almost zero consumption during the day.

Goodbye "Green Bonaire"..... Thanks to WEB. Again they have proven they are incompetent administrating the Island's electricity.

Ulf Woodwind



### ANIMAL SUFFERING

Dear Readers,

I am so grateful for my life on Bonaire. The beautiful coastline, the serene environment and the wonderful people warm my heart. I appreciate every day I wake on Bonaire. Sadly, there are lovely creatures suffering on our island. Some pet owners chain their dogs 24 hours a day. Others keep their animals in cages to live a lonely sad life. I fail to understand what is the point of owning a pet if they are held prisoners on chains or cages? Dogs love to be in packs with their owner or other dogs. They are not solitary creatures. They are also very intelligent. In some cultures, animals are used for work. Dogs are used to sniff out bombs and drugs. Others lead

the blind or are companions to the disabled. Animal welfare on our beautiful island is far better than other countries. We are blessed with two amazing vets. We also have a wonderful animal shelter staffed by loving and caring people. The *Dierenbescherming* Bonaire is on island to insure the welfare of animals is maintained.

Please, if you have a fence, consider taking the dogs off the chain or out of the cage to protect your yard and be your companion. If you do not have a fence, I would be happy to donate a trolley that can be tied between a house and tree so the dog can run. Please contact me at 786-3134. If you read this and realize you cannot properly care for your dog, then consider releasing them to the shelter so they may find a good home.

Ann Phelan



### CAN AIRLINES GIVE SERVICE? THE GOOD, THE BAD (AND THE UGLY)...

Dear Editor:

Recently my mother of 84 and my daughter of 10 were flying from NY to Bonaire. As the flight possibilities are few and far between, it is not a simple task to make this happen. We decided on Jet Blue from JFK to Curacao and a four hour layover in Curacao and then continue with Insel to Bonaire. Well, as luck would have it, the weather in NY was terrible, pouring rain, thunder and lightning, so needless to say, that 4 hour layover was quickly dwindling... As soon as the flight was in the air, I could easily see on JetBlue web site the estimated arrival in Curacao. This left us only a window of 1 hour and 20 minutes to make the next flight.

As my mother needs wheel chair assistance and they would need to exit through immigrations and customs, collect their bag from Jet Blue, then recheck at Insel, and clear security to make the flight, I was figuring this could become a problem if we did not plan ahead. So with all information ready, several hours in advance of their arrival, I happily called Insel, expecting that this would not be a big problem. The answer was NO, they will not have enough time and there is nothing that we can do to help. Really, an hour and 20 minutes is not enough? You know they are coming, I can check them in on line and I can tell you they have one bag. NO, the computer closes one hour prior to departure and if they are not here it is no show and they will have to buy a new ticket. I pleaded that you can see for yourself when the plane would land, you

(Continued on page 19)

## Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being talked about "on the street"

The government office of Registro Sivil/Civil Registry/Bevolking on Kaya Neerlandia has adjusted their hours. They are open non-stop Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday hours are by appointment only. **This government office is the location for driver licenses, proof of residency, passports, etc.**

- Bula previously reported that W.E.B. office for payments and customer service was temporarily moving to the new office on Kaya Gresia, next to the RCN building. Rumor has it that clients are so impressed with the new digs that **W.E.B. is considering keeping those services at the new location.**
- Word on the street is that the popular **Gio's Gelateria and Cafe on Kaya Grandi** will be moving to the new **TerraMar complex** which is nearing completion on the seaside in Playa. Sources say that Gio's will occupy one of the "anchor" commercial spaces on the triangular corner of Kaya J.N.E. Craane and Kaya Isla Riba.
- Another opening will be at the cruise ship terminal. It will be a long awaited **Wine Bar, tentatively named "The Barrel."** It will feature a variety of wines and a **pianist.**



- On August 10, an **earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale** was recorded in Catia La Mar, Venezuela, just 136 miles from Bonaire. There were no reports that any effects were felt here. Caribbean Weather Center stated that the quake was too shallow to cause a wide effect. Although the edge of the South American geological plate is just north of Bonaire it is stable and no quakes from there are anticipated.

No more stickers

- Bula had previously posed the question about the process of **purchasing license plate stickers for the second half of the year** now that the tax office no longer has cashier window facilities. Well, it's been answered. **The island will no longer be issuing half year "stickers."** To purchase a half year sticker, you need to pay through on line banking or at the bank, providing the bank with your plate number, CRIB number and period for which you are paying. The bank receipt should be kept in your car as proof of valid plate/sticker. No word yet as to whether this will be the same process for the full year stickers for 2016.



- **Dia di Boneiru (Bonaire Day)** is on the way, **Sunday, September 6.** In the past, the day was officially celebrated in a different one of the five barios each year (Antriol, Rincon, Tera Kora, Nikiboko, Nort Salina). However, last year the government decided it would take place each year in Plaza Wilhelmina in Kralendijk. This was not a popular decision and the rumor was that it had something to do with promises made to certain businesses in the Plaza area. The new government has announced that it is returning to the traditional plan and over the next five years the official cultural celebration will return to the barios. **This year, Antriol is the host,** followed by Rincon in 2016, Nort Salina in 2017, Nikiboko in 2018 and Tera Kora in 2019. The "official protocol" opening of the celebration will still take place in Plaza Wilhelmina, but the cultural portion of the holiday (read: "the fun stuff") will take place in the designated barios.
- Since **Bonaire no longer has its own jazz festival** (see story in past issue) *Reporter* readers may want to take advantage of the Curacao North Sea Jazz Festival, September 3-5. Headliners include Usher, John Legend, Lionel Richie and many more big names. Check out the website <http://www.curacaonorthseajazz.com> ■ **Bula Bonchi**







# My Little Shop

On Bonaire there are still some little shops, “tokos,” to be 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.

A big sign, “HAIR,” on the Kaya Dr. Gregorio Hernandez 45A, indicates the tiny barber shop that is owned by Charles Pikeur. The sign almost looks bigger than the shop that is about 18 square meters. But still there is place for two clients and the barber himself.

HAIR is formally called Antriol Barber-shop and Multiservices. Charles started it in 1998 when he came from Curacao to Bonaire. Both his parents are from Bonaire, but they moved to Curacao where he was born. His parents still had and have a house on Bonaire and he made the shop on their piece of land next to the house. Just recently he managed to get the land divided in order to have the shop on its own piece of land so he could put his business-building up for sale.

When I asked Charles why he did so his answer was, “I want to be prepared for the future. They say that the population of Bonaire will grow and then there will be more business for me too.” He already owns another large piece of land where he wants to start a bigger business with more parking space. In front of his shop there is only one parking space so that makes it very difficult to expand.

Charles did not always cut hair for a living, although he started doing hair from an early age. Already at the age of nine he

was busy with it. His two elder brothers were cutting hair on the porch. He would watch them and then start to practice. However, at school he learned a completely different trade: plumbing! He never worked as a plumber but did work on Curacao at Tropical Motors selling cars and car parts.

After six years he returned to his former hobby and worked in a hair salon called Mel where he worked with four other barbers. After that he started his own business on Curacao with three partners in a place called Rio. He did this for three years, saved money and sent it to Bonaire to a builder who constructed his business-building. People from the neighborhood saw the construction and were curious. Before he started on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1998, almost everybody in the neighborhood knew that he would start a barbershop, so he had enough clients from the start. At first his wife helped out in the shop as well. She would help the female clients with hair, nails and braces. Since she got a job as a schoolteacher she no longer does so and Charles only does haircuts for men. In 2002 he built his own house nearby where he still lives with his family.

What are Charles’ wishes for the future? “I really hope the population will grow.



Barber Charles Pikeur

Bonaire is too small for big business nowadays. I also hope that there will be more unity on the island: all humans are the same, so we can do it well together.” He sees that too often people start something on the island without thinking it over properly. They don’t think about everything that comes with starting a business: making yourself known, paying taxes, etc. So he hopes that people get the chance to be informed and work out their ideas, know about business and do it according to the law. For the future vision is necessary, make plans to grow. With a positive mentality he thinks the future will be bright for all of us living on the island.

■ Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



Just Do It (Continued from page 12)

juices and jams and added to other dishes. It’s a well known treatment for constipation or blood cleaner. And because of its high amount of vitamin C, four times more than an orange, it’s good against the flu and colds or fever. The leaves are good to make a nice fresh tea against the heat of a hot, sunny day. But it’s bad for the bones because of its high tartaric acid. People with bone density problems should be careful with its use.

When the ripe fruit matures it becomes sweeter and less sour and is used in desserts, as a jam, blended into juices or sweetened drinks, sorbets, ice creams and other snacks like candy, popular in Mexico and Thailand. In Indonesia it’s called *assem* and popular in all their food. It’s found in Worcestershire Sauce and it’s used to flavor foods ranging from savory dishes, stews and all kinds of beverages. Some people like to eat it raw or with salt. Children like to just suck on the pods. In Buddhist Asian countries the pulp is used to polish brass shrine statues and lamps and copper, brass and bronze utensils.

On Bonaire there are a lot of trees with a lot of ripe tamarinds these days. So spend some of your last holiday time (for example teachers and kids) to pick the very healthy tamarind under and on the trees and have a nice afternoon making all kind of good stuff with your tamarinds. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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# WOUNDED WARRIORS 10TH VISIT TO BONAIRE

Dozens of enthusiastic supporters turned out to greet this year's contingent of injured American servicemen, part of the Wounded Warriors Project, at Flamingo Airport last Saturday night.

It was 10 years ago when the island of Bonaire was approached about hosting a group of US servicemen wounded as the result of service to their country. Island officials welcomed the opportunity. Now, a decade later, Bonaire is set to host their 10th Anniversary Wounded Warrior Trip, from August 15-22.

Each year during this special week, selected US soldiers with service-related challenges come to Bonaire where they scuba dive and explore some of the best reefs and dive sites in the world. A large number of companies have come alongside to sponsor the participants, their companions and basically all of the week's activities and meals.

"It is always a pleasure to welcome a new group of warriors," commented Malinda Hassell, Marketing Manager for Tourism Corporation Bonaire. "At the end of the week, you can see the positive effects of their vacation in Bonaire; they are relaxed and are already talking about when they can return to the island."

Captain Don's Habitat has supported this project since its inception. "Captain Don's Habitat continues to support the Wounded Warrior Bonaire Program in part because of the large role the late Jack Chalk had in creating the program. He wanted to give back to people who have given so much," explains Claire Sealy, General Manager at Habitat. "We are proud to host the Warriors each year and provide the housing and diving support. We are humbled each year by the fortitude and courage of the amazing warriors, spouses and family members."

Eight Warriors will spend a week on Bonaire, some with spouses or partners, some getting PADI Open Water Certification as SCUBA divers. They are:

**Brian Wilhelm** with Alexandra Wilhelm from New Lenox, Illinois

**Sergio Trejo** with Jessica Trejo from La Marque, Texas

**Mario Andres Pinilla** with Claudia Lorena Rivas Amaris from Neenah, Wisconsin

**Kristy Ellen Giagnocavo** from Fayetteville, North Carolina

**Johni David Wigington** from Niceville, Florida

**Orlando Gill** with Marie De Hoyos-Gill from San Antonio, Texas

**Tanya Bailey** with **Tony Bailey** with from Newport News, Virginia



Tanya Bailey, who met her husband Tony in the service. Nadine Rubin looks on.

Because of airline schedules not all Warriors were able to arrive Saturday night, but all will be here to begin enjoying Bonaire On Monday they'll be at Capt. Don's Habitat for Happy Hour. On Wednesday, a reception will be given by the Governor at the executive office building downtown. To stay current on the Wounded Warriors Bonaire event follow #WWB15 on Twitter. ■ G.D./ Press release



Story in memory of Jack Chalk, the originator of Wounded Warrior visits to Bonaire. RIP.



← The Iron Order Motorcycle Club provided an escort for the Warriors to their lodgings at Divi Flamingo and Captain Don's Habitat.

## Help Stop Parrot Poaching

How would you feel if you were taken from your family when you were small and vulnerable? How scared would you be? You'd likely be very frightened. Like Bonaire's Lora Yellow-shouldered Amazon chicks being taken from their nests in Bonaire right now!

Echo has recently received three chicks that were rescued from someone on the island who illegally poached them from their nests and was hand-rearing them to be sold. While our team will do everything we can to help these baby birds grow up strong and healthy and ready to be released back into the wild, there is no substitute for having their own parents raise them.

We are thrilled at how we were helped to reach our initial goal of \$5,000. But there is still so much more work to be done.

The Echo team is doing all it can to protect the vulnerable wild parrot nests



Lora chicks

from poaching. Your support will make it possible for us to:

- Increase surveillance on vulnerable nests with chicks
- Generate more awareness of the parrots' protected status
- Develop appreciation for the parrots among the community
- Collaborate with law enforcement to prosecute known poachers and to confiscate illegally captured parrots.

With your help we can stop the illegal capture of wild parrots on Bonaire. Every dollar does make a difference.

Please help donate today! <https://www.razoo.com/story/Protect-The-Parrot-Chicks-On-Bonaire> ■ Press release Echo

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) that date was postponed to July 31, 2015. In this way the domain name holders had more time to switch to other domain names. Eventually it will be considered whether it is economically feasible to give out the reserved domain extension for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, namely .BQ. A decision has not been taken yet in this matter.

More information can be obtained from the provider where the website is hosted, or the administrator issuing the .AN domain names: [an\\_registry@uoc.cw](mailto:an_registry@uoc.cw)

► In connection with the above change **TELBO informed users of its internet domain that all email addresses that end in '.an' as of July 31, 2015, no longer exist.** This affects all Telbonet users. TELBO migrated those .an email addresses to .net.

For example if your current email address was george@telbonet.an, your new email address will be george@telbonet.net. TELBO advises you to take the necessary measures and inform all your contacts about this migration. For information about how to change the settings in Microsoft Office to telbonet.net you can visit the website of TELBO: <http://www.telbo.net/downloads/How-To-Change-TELBO-E-mail-Account-Settings-v2.pdf> or call 9212.

► Last week the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) started to conduct a diver survey. The last time this took place was in 2009; therefore an update is needed in the data. In order to make this possible TCB contacted all the dive shops on Bonaire and surveys are being distributed to them. The duration of the survey will be two months. The filled out surveys will be picked up from the dive shops bi-weekly.



There are two ways to fill out the survey which is manually and digitally through this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/diversurvey2015>.

With the results of the diver survey it will show how the dive market is performing which remains the main attraction for the tourist industry on the island. This will also allow us to better understand our divers and enhance the quality of our diving product and improve our marketing efforts. The survey results will be shared once the final report is complete.

TCB would like to thank the dive shops for their cooperation.

For more information please contact TCB at: 717-8322 or email [marketing@tourismonbonaire.com](mailto:marketing@tourismonbonaire.com). ■ G.D.

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>  
Wilhelminaplein  
6 - 10 p.m.

**Barracudas Bar**  
@Taste of Bonaire

Proceeds go to  
Bonaire Barracudas  
Swim and Water Polo Team

**BARRACUDAS**  
Aquatics Club  
BONAIRE

# Bonaire At The Special Olympics World Games

The significance of Bonaire's participation in the just-completed, every-four-years Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, California, cannot be understated. Our dozen athletes from our island of 18 thousand people stood tall alongside the thousands of athletes from countries with multiple billions of people. And they performed magnificently, winning four gold, nine silver and 12 bronze medals. But just winning medals is not what Special Olympics is really about. It's about joining together, raising expectations and personal achievement.

Special Olympics makes a big impact in the lives of our intellectually disabled men and women, and this year's World Games in Los Angeles did that and much more. According to sports network ESPN, who covered the games with the focus normally reserved to professional sports, it made an impact on the millions of viewers who watched the games as well as the emotions it generated within the ESPN studio staff. They'd never witnessed anything like this in other sports they broadcast. The Games shows that there was more to sports than competition and rivalry. They were about sportsmanship, support for fellow competitors, and the triumph of personal achievement against all odds. Sports provide a unique opportunity for all people of the world to get along cheerfully and freely without prejudice. At the Special Olympics this message was never louder, clearer or more poignant. It wasn't unusual to see tears well up in the eyes of hardened newscasters observing the events.

In Los Angeles more than 6,500 athletes and 2,000 coaches from 165 countries gathered at the 2015 World Games from July 25 to August 2, including 12 from Bonaire along with eight coaches and delegates. *The Bonaire Reporter* was also on hand to report. There were 25 sports events. Bonaire competed in Bocce, Track events (Athletics) and Swimming. About 30,000 smiling, patient, friendly, helpful volunteers helped guide the athletes and the more than 500,000 spectators. It was a big time sports event, the largest ever in Los Angeles.

Our athletes competing in the World Games were: **Josafat Isaias Cicilia, Nataniel Raphael Tielman, Nina Maria Braeken, Suraya Hendriks, Patrick Francisco Bernabela, Marcelino Danimar Josefa, Swinda Maria Offerman, Natiana Gregoria Nicolina, Omar Rigoberto Leonicia, Dionysius Anatole Rein, Lucille Demetria Pikerie and Hellen Teodula Agostien.**

Before the World Games our coaches and volunteers worked tirelessly and patiently for months with our athletes, encouraging them, bringing in professionals to help. They too deserve medals for their devotion.

The big day arrives and there's a lot for our team to go through. First there is a two-day flight of 5,591 km (3,477 mi), interminable delays, a rough night sleeping on the floor of the Welcome Center in Red Cross sleeping bags. A transfer to the Host Town of Glendale to take part in the ceremony bringing in the Olympic Flame by peace officers. Then to the accommodations at the University of California (USC) campus. Assembling for the huge Opening Ceremony was lengthy. Then there's the waiting and queuing for events, the local transportation. Finally competition, the roar of the fans, the thrill of victory! That makes it all worthwhile!

The events were spread out over Southern California. A fleet of busses transported teams, fans, the press and delegates on a tight schedule. At the event sites there was considerable security. Despite this a 44-year old athlete from Albania disappeared for a day. He was discovered when he walked into a police station near San Francisco over 375 miles away, saying he was hungry. The mystery of Andi Gusmari's journey across California hasn't been solved yet. Instead of bowling, maybe he should have been in the marathon.

At the USC athletics and swimming venue there was a fleet of trucks selling food and drinks, games for all, Google displays, free bottled water, soft drinks and sunscreen, and more. Homeless people collected cans and plastic bottles for recycling— each container worth \$0.10 and there were thousands of empties. Peppy music blared from speakers all over the area.

Organizers arranged medical checkups for all athletes. (eyes, hearing, teeth, sports physical, physiotherapy). As a result they gave away thousands of pairs of Nike sport shoes, as well as hundreds of pairs of eyeglasses and hearing aids. The medical checkup tent was favorite place for the athletes to exchange "pins." As in the traditional Olympics, most countries provide national souvenir pins which they trade to athletes from other countries and soon amass a wonderful collection. It is the "unofficial event" of the Olympics.

The next Special Olympics Summer Games are set for 2019 in Mexico City. The next Winter Games are two years away in Austria. Perhaps Bonaire can leverage its kiteboarding expertise into snowboarding and take part. ■ G./L. D



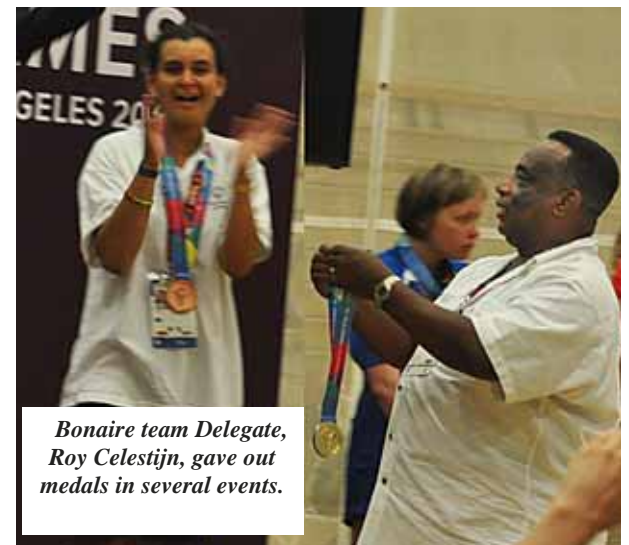
Special Olympics photo  
2015 Special Olympics Opening Ceremony in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum



Special Olympics Bonaire photo  
Bonaire 2015 Special Olympics team and coaches



Patrick Bernabela takes the field and a gold medal in track.



Bonaire team Delegate, Roy Celestijn, gave out medals in several events.



Bad news. After an apparent Bocce win the officials admit to a scoring error.



Swimmer Nina Maria Braeken takes the lead.

# A Garden? Just Do It!

This time I will talk about the **Neem Tree** and why it's so interesting. I want to make you aware of all the good stuff about the neem tree which is growing like crazy on Bonaire but which we have heard only bad things. Another tree I'd like to write about is the popular **Tamarind**.

## The Neem

The *Azadirachta Indica*, well known as the **neem tree**, is native to India and other countries and used for centuries in Indian culture and ayurvedic medicine. All parts of the neem tree are used in health care. Fruits and seeds provide us with neem oil and neem seed extracts. Leaves are used as extracts for skin problems and the bark has been used as a traditional toothbrush.

Most popular of the neem extracts are used 1) as an insect repellent; 2) for soothing irritated skin and scalp; 3) as a head lice treatment; 4) to treat skin diseases like eczema psoriasis; or 5) to use as a tea to support body health.

Dried neem leaves may be stored in rice and pastas to keep bugs away. Burning neem leaves keeps mosquitoes away. Also a tea brewed from neem leaves sprayed on plants keeps worms, bugs and the white fly away. Neem based products are used in ayurvedic medicine and are readily available in many parts of the world. It's also used a lot in soap and shampoo.

Neem is also a vegetable. The tender shoots and flowers are eaten in various



Neem tree leaves

ways in India and other countries. Leaves fried in oil with eggplant, cooked in soup, pickled leaves with tomato and fish paste sauce are some examples.

Neem trees grow fast and nicely on Bonaire. It's a great evergreen tree for shade and can be lush on a kunuku, but it's also a dominant tree. Once you have it in your yard, before you know you will see small trees growing everywhere because the fast growing seeds spread out all over the place. So keep an eye out for the small plants and pull them out if you don't want to have a neem tree jungle. Also the roots are big, long and dangerous for your house. So plant this tree far from any building to prevent its roots from growing under the foundation. If you like birds around you, you will enjoy seeing them nearly all the time in the neem tree.

In India neem is a holy tree for certain religions where ceremonies are held under this tree, of which each family has it

in their yards.

So now that you know so many good things about the neem tree I guess you will treat it with more respect and enjoy it even more.

## The Tamarind

The tamarind tree, a tropical tree, is one of our most popular trees on Bonaire. We just cannot imagine Bonaire without these huge, always green, tamarind trees with their typical pod-like fruit which is used extensively in cuisines around the world. Other uses include medicine and metal polish. The wood can be used in carpentry. Because of its many uses its cultivation has spread around the world in tropical and sub tropical zones.

*Tamarindus indica* is probably indigenous to Africa but has spread out in Asia. In the 16th century it was massively introduced into Mexico and later South America by Spanish and Portuguese colonists, to the degree that it became a staple ingredient in the region's cuisine. Today India is the largest producer of tamarind followed by the US. The name tamarind comes from Arabic, *tamr-hindi*, meaning "date of India." Several early medieval herbalists wrote of *tamar ind*. Medieval Latin use was *tamarindus* and Marco Polo wrote of *tamarindi*.

The tamarind is a long-lived, bushy, tall tree that grows well in full sun in all kinds of soil types and is highly resistant to drought and salt winds. The fruit has a fleshy, juicy, acidic pulp. It's mature



Dried Tamarind

when the flesh is brown or reddish-brown. The Asian tamarind has longer pods; African and West Indian varieties have short pods. The taste is best described as sweet and sour and is high in tartaric acid, sugar, B-vitamins, and calcium. It's harvested by pulling the pod from its stalk. A tree in good condition will usually bear fruit within three to four years. Tamarind timber consists of hard, dark red heartwood which can be used in furniture and wood floors and it has also the softer, yellowish sapwood. It is often used as a shade tree along roadsides, in dooryards and parks.

On Bonaire the fruit is used in making

(Continued on page 9)

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# It Takes An Island

Restoring a 64-year-old wooden sailing ship is an enormous project that requires help from all kinds of people. Fortunately for Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru (Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation), a number of individuals and organizations have contributed to Project *Stormvogel*, the restoration of the last sailing cargo boat of the ABC islands.

Take, for instance, a contribution from just-departed resident **Patrick Hulsker**. While cleaning out his garage in preparation for his family's move back to Holland, Hulsker uncovered two used sails and donated them to *Stormvogel*. The jibs were no longer usable for sailing, but the restoration crew thought they might be perfect as a sun shade. They were taken to the **Phish Phactory**, a company that crafts all types of products from canvas, cloth and wood. "We started Phish Phactory a year ago and have been fortunate enough to have support from a lot of people involved in the *Stormvogel* project," says Suuz Zelders, co-owner. "We really wanted to give back to those who have helped and at the same time be part of restoring such an historic part of Bonairean culture. We plan to be more involved with *Stormvogel* in the coming months."

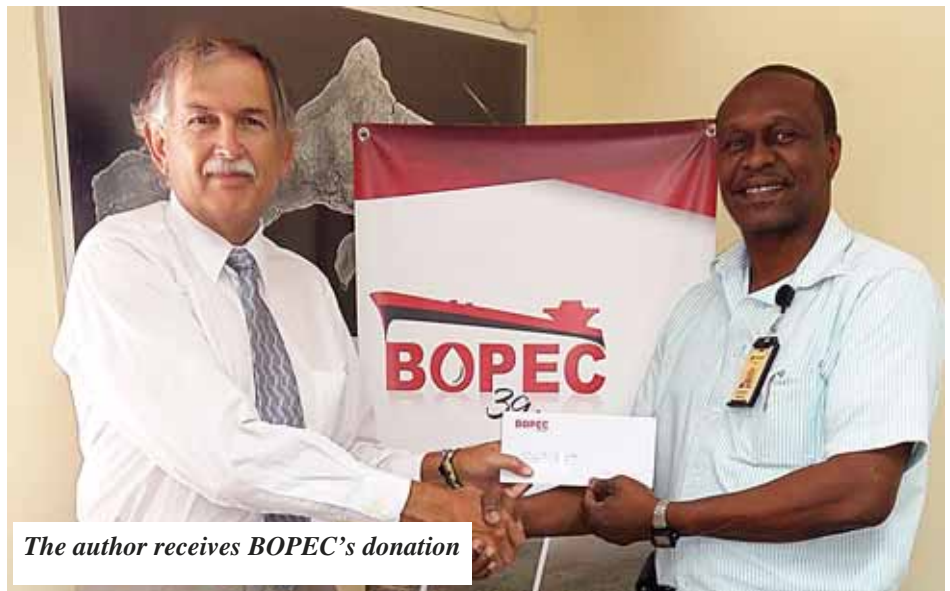
Besides materials and services, a number of individuals have given cash contributions to the project. That money allowed the foundation to transfer *Stormvogel* from Curacao in March to its current location at the Navegante Boatyard in Hato. Now organizations are starting to fund Phase Two of the project, the historic restoration

of the boat.

**Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds of the Caribbean region** awarded the foundation nearly \$15,000 to fund the Junior Shipwright program. This is one of the educational outreach efforts of Project *Stormvogel* designed to involve the community in the maritime heritage of Bonaire. Students from SBG high school, Junior Rangers, CIEE and other youth groups will work along side the restoration crew and learn basic boat building skills. In the process, youth will learn about *Stormvogel* and its fascinating history. This program will begin this month.

The foundation is also seeking corporate contributions for the project. Last year, **Cargill Salt** awarded Project *Stormvogel* funds for the restoration and this summer **BOPEC** (Bonaire Petroleum Company) contributed \$5000 to the project. "That money has allowed us to buy essential supplies and materials," say head of the restoration, Johnny Craane. "Right now we are stabilizing the boat with 2x4's and other wood. But we have also turned the place into a work site that needed ladders, tools, and fasteners. The corporate funds have allowed us to continue the restoration at a good pace."

You can contribute to this unique community project in several ways. Cash contributions can be sent to Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru, MCB account #40934710. Categories include corporate contributions \$5000+, Fleet Commander \$1000+, Admiral \$500+, Captain \$250+, Ensign \$100+ and First Mate, less than



The author receives BOPEC's donation

\$100.

Also, by purchasing *Stormvogel* products such as T-shirts (\$20), bottle koozies (\$5) and bumper stickers (\$3), you can help the cause. These items are available at Boutique Vita on Kaya Grandi, the Zazu Bar at Harbour Village Marina and Budget Marine. Or visit the Navegante Boatyard on any Wednesday or Saturday morning. You can buy all items there and get to see Bonaire's historical ship up-close. All proceeds go directly to the restoration ■ Story & photo from Patrick Holian



Captain Johnny Craane works on the hull

Follow the progress of Project *Stormvogel* at:

<https://www.facebook.com/StormvogelBonaire?fref=ts>

On Page 1: Suuz Zelders, co-owner of Phish Phactory and Jim Madden provide a cover for *Stormvogel*'s repairs

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**For rent: in Hato, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot:** three bedroom house, two bedroom apartment, one bedroom apartment. Short and/or long term. Mail: digitalis1956@hotmail.com

## Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 17	02:48 0.56 ft	10:46 0.05 ft	16:49 0.47 ft	22:50 0.27 ft		6:24	18:54
Tue 18	03:41 0.50 ft	11:09 0.07 ft	17:14 0.54 ft	23:59 0.23 ft		6:24	18:54
Wed 19	04:32 0.44 ft	11:29 0.08 ft	17:38 0.61 ft			6:24	18:53
Thu 20		00:55 0.18 ft	05:19 0.39 ft	11:48 0.09 ft	18:04 0.69 ft	6:24	18:53
Fri 21		01:42 0.13 ft	06:03 0.35 ft	12:09 0.08 ft	18:33 0.77 ft	6:24	18:52
Sat 22	First Quarter	02:26 0.08 ft	06:44 0.31 ft	12:32 0.07 ft	19:04 0.84 ft	6:24	18:52
Sun 23		03:08 0.04 ft	07:23 0.28 ft	13:00 0.05 ft	19:39 0.90 ft	6:24	18:51
Mon 24		03:50 0.01 ft	08:02 0.26 ft	13:33 0.03 ft	20:16 0.95 ft	6:25	18:51
Tue 25		04:31 -0.01 ft	08:44 0.25 ft	14:12 0.02 ft	20:57 0.97 ft	6:25	18:50
Wed 26		05:13 -0.02 ft	09:32 0.25 ft	14:58 0.03 ft	21:42 0.96 ft	6:25	18:49
Thu 27		05:56 -0.02 ft	10:27 0.28 ft	15:55 0.06 ft	22:30 0.93 ft	6:25	18:49
Fri 28		06:39 -0.03 ft	11:29 0.34 ft	17:04 0.09 ft	23:24 0.86 ft	6:25	18:48
Sat 29	Full Moon	07:23 -0.03 ft	12:34 0.42 ft	18:28 0.13 ft		6:25	18:48
Sun 30		00:25 0.78 ft	08:09 -0.03 ft	13:39 0.53 ft	20:01 0.13 ft	6:25	18:47
Mon 31		01:33 0.69 ft	08:55 -0.02 ft	14:40 0.65 ft	21:33 0.10 ft	6:25	18:46



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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Free listing in this directory for regular repeat *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. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

## 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.



## 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.**

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## ON and IN the WATER

**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

**PPM- Prestige Property Management** Can care for your property when you are off island doing Check-Ups, House sitting, - Contractor Supervision, Gardening & Landscaping, Meet & Greet guests, and more.

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**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

**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.



**Breeze n' Bites at the Den Laman Apartments.** Provides a memorable seaside dining experience with fine food. Specializing in Fresh Seafood and Select Meats. Happy Hour 4-6 pm.

**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 fashion 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

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## SUPERMARKETS

**TOP Supermarket**— Conveniently located downtown at the old Culti-mara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



## 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

**Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

**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 Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

• **Tera Kora Ranch Market**—2nd & last Saturdays- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2nd 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. Free entrance

• **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.

## 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 Hab-**

**tat 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.

• **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. 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 **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](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

**Week of August 17 - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bonaire Wounded Warrior Scuba Diving Certification Program.** A special week that welcomes and celebrates a group of wounded warriors and their families. They will be hosted by Captain Don's Habitat and many other businesses & individuals. See story in this issue.

**Saturday, August 22—Sunday, August 30—Bonaire Shark Week.** Details on page 8.

**Sunday, August 30- Taste of Bonaire.** At the Taste of Bonaire, visitors will have the opportunity to experience food, culture, local handicrafts and all things offered on Bonaire, at Wilhelmina Park on the waterfront, 6-10pm. More information at Tourist Corporation Bonaire.

**Saturday, August 29**

- **Pranayama and Asana:** Listening To The Heart, 9am at the Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio, Plaza Resort. Tel. 700-5779

- **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**, 8am-2pm. Traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. On the Rincon Road at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance

**Sunday, September 6 --Bonaire Flag Day** – Legal holiday. Opening ceremonies at Plaza Wilhelmina. Fun activities in Antriol. See page 7

**Sunday, October 4 Open Water Swim to Klein Bonaire** from Spice Beach Club. Registration 7- 8am. Swim starts at 9 am. Start from Spice Beach Club to Klein Bonaire and back, Distance: 1.6 K / 1 Mile. Donation \$25 (proceeds go to the Foundation 'Jong Bonaire.' More information: [bonaire-barracudas@gmail.com](mailto:bonaire-barracudas@gmail.com)

The basic swim in NOT a race and open to all. But if you are a competitive swimmer, 14 years or older, you might want to join the racers.



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# THE STARS HAVE IT

## August 2015

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Financial limitations are likely if you take risks. Too much work and no play will not only result in fatigue and frustration but also loneliness, too. Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) This is not the time to lend or borrow money or possessions. You will not be able to contain your emotions this month. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. Your luckiest will occur on a Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money. Opportunities for advancement at work are apparent. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship. You'll have great insight. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Involvement in groups of interest will bring you in touch with important individuals. You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. Your dramatic nature may be too much to handle. Be cautious of making any residential changes this month. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You will earn recognition for the work you are doing. Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. You may be in love this month, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. If you can get away for a vacation, do so. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Your intellectual charm will entice mates who have common interests. You may want to sign up for lectures or courses that will bring you mental stimulation. You can persuade even the toughest op-

ponents to think your way. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can solidify your relationship if you plan a special evening with your mate. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. A new image can be the result if you change your look. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Relatives may play an important role in your personal life. Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Things at home may be somewhat rocky. You may be likely to have difficulties with females. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Do not give your heart to someone who may not live up to your standards. You will not be able to contain your emotions this month. Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. You may want to try your hand at a little creative writing. Don't let your boss get the better of you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may find out that someone is trying to undermine you. Try to avoid being extravagant this month. Changes in your domestic scene are evident. You might get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Invite friends in for a visit. Empty promises and a lack of cash may put a damper on your plans. Losses are evident. It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Your mind is on moneymaking ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■Michael Thiessen



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

WINTER IS BACK! WELL, ALMOST.

Guess what? Winter is just around the corner! Huh? We're in the middle of August. It's not even autumn yet. But even in the sultry skies of August, if you wake up early enough this week, you can get a preview of the brightest stars of winter and you can see the reappearance of the planets **Mars** and **Venus**.



Under ordinary circumstances, you could wait until December to see the stars of winter, but a good preview is fun too. On Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> about 45 minutes before sunrise face east where you'll see several bright stars covering a huge area from east to southeast.

Look south of east, just above the southeast horizon. You'll easily see winter's super bright star, **Sirius**. Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky, and it's also the brightest star of **Canis Major**, **Orion's** big hunting dog.

Up and to the left of Sirius is **Procyon**, which marks the eye of Orion's little dog and above and to Procyon's right, completing a triangle of bright stars, is **Betelgeuse**, the bright red shoulder of Orion.

Down to the right of Betelgeuse are the unmistakable three stars, evenly spaced in a row, which mark **Orion's belt**. His four ankle stars, **Rigel** and knee star **Saiph** are to the right and his two shoulder stars, **Betelgeuse** and **Bellatrix** are to the left.

Directly above Orion's shoulder stars, lies **Aldebaran**, the reddish star which marks the eye of **Taurus the bull**. And to Taurus' left is **Capella**, the brightest star of winter's **Auriga** the charioteer constellation. Directly below Auriga are **Castor** and **Pollux** the two brightest stars of the **Gemini Twins**.

So even though the nights at the end of August may not be chilly like up north, if you get out just before sunrise in the Sky Park in August, you can see many of the brightest stars of winter climbing above the eastern horizon.

But this year something has been added. Because directly below Castor, Pollux and Procyon you'll see an additional pair of bright lights, two wandering stars which weren't there this time last year.

You'll be looking over 230 million miles

across the solar system at the red planet Mars and if you have a really clear view of the horizon, you may catch our sister planet Venus, emerging from the glare of the Sun. It may be tough to spot Venus in the early part of next week, but by early September, Venus will scoot past Mars on its way toward the Gemini twins.

Remember that whenever we look for Mars, we can realize that Mars is only half the size of our Earth. So you'll be looking at a very small planet that's very far away. Now if you watch both of these planets through the end of August and into September, you'll notice that Venus gets a little bit higher above the horizon each day while Mars will get farther below Venus each day.

And if you have a really clear, flat, cloudless horizon on the morning of Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> you may see one of the skinniest Moons you'll ever see below and to the right of Mars, just above the horizon. It'll be right next to the bright star **Regulus** of **Leo the Lion** and even the giant planet **Jupiter** will join the fun, emerging from the solar glare, very close to the horizon.

So there you have it, all of winter's bright stars, visible in the east at the end of August, just before sunrise. Procyon, Sirius and Betelgeuse mark the Winter Triangle. Betelgeuse, Rigel, Saiph and Bellatrix mark the giant hunter Orion. And above them lie Aldebaran and the V-shape of Taurus plus Castor, Pollux, Venus, Mars and eventually Jupiter and the moon.

And near the end of this week, on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, look southwest after sunset. Among the claws of **Scorpius the Scorpion**, the Moon will pay a close visit to the ringed planet **Saturn**. It's all there for you to see. ■Dean Regas & James Albury



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# Animal Shelter Tips & News

# Pet of the Week



## EDUCATION & DOG TRAINING

**D**og Partner Bonaire has been working together with the Animal Shelter Bonaire for the last six months on education about dogs and the feedback is great!

New dog owners are enjoying the obedience classes on how to handle their new pet and are very willing to work with all the information about on how to take care of their dog and pass this information on to friends and family.

Upcoming event: **Agility training.** Are you looking for a fun way to bond with your dog and put his natural instincts to work? Check out dog agility training at Dog Partner Bonaire.

Dog agility is a popular canine sport in which a handler directs a dog through a variety of obstacles such as a tunnel, tire jump, weave poles, pause table, and standard jumps. During agility events, handlers attempt to navigate dogs through a course as quickly and as accurately as they can.

Agility training will fulfill your dog's natural instincts. It helps strengthen the bond between you and your dog, is a great exercise for your dog and will get the owner in shape too!

For more information call the Animal Shelter Bonaire (7174989) e-mail at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) Dog Partner Bonaire (7177436- 7865336) Facebook at DogPartner Bonaire.

## FLEA AND TICK AWARENESS

**W**hen you decide to adopt a pet don't forget to take steps to help protect them against fleas and ticks.

It can be helpful for pet owners to alter the landscape around their homes to make it unsuitable for fleas and ticks. Keep the grass mowed, keep it clean and treat the premises. A thorough spraying of all outdoor areas especially under shrubs, trees, decks, and other cool moist areas is essential in tick control. It also helps to spray the trunks of trees and the exterior walls of the house or building as ticks are good climbers and may attempt to climb away from your spray.

Despite your efforts to reduce the fleas and ticks in your yards, pets may still be exposed to these parasites, so you should take measures to help protect them. Treat all dogs and cats in the household with a flea and tick control product. One untreated pet can lead to an infestation in the household, because the flea and tick feed on them.

Brand products can help protect your dog from unexpected flea and tick sources by killing adult fleas, eggs and larvae, and all stages of ticks. It not only stops existing flea and tick infestations, but also prevents the establishment of new infestations.

Consistency is key. Even one missed dose of your monthly flea and tick control can set the stage for a flea infestation that takes months to resolve, or put your pet at greater risk of exposure to a tick borne disease. So be sure you treat your pet now and continue monthly applications throughout the rest of the year.

Contact your professional veterinarian for all the information you need about flea and tick control or just call the Animal Shelter Bonaire (7174989) for more information. ■

*Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson*



## MEET CHICHI & OPA.

**H**i, I am "ChiChi," I was found when I was a baby and brought to the Animal Shelter together with my mother and two sisters. My sisters found new owners. One of them even moved to France! Because I am old enough I don't have to live with my mom anymore so I can move too. I am a very happy, easy going and affectionate young girl. I like to play and hopefully a nice family will come over for some cuddles soon.

The handsome old guy next to me is "Opa." He takes care of me. Opa was brought to the Shelter with "Oma" when their owner had to leave the island. Oma was very lucky when a very nice couple took her home. Opa was a bit sad so now I try to cheer him up. He is a very strong, loving and cool Labrador mix and hopefully he also will find a new family soon!

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are treated against ticks and fleas are de-wormed, vaccinated and micro chipped.

Are you interested in adopting ChiChi or Opa or even both of them? Then come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717-4989. E-mail to [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com). ■

*Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson*



Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor

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The Bike Professionals

# Local Businesses Protecting Turtles

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) has launched a new nest adoption program that provides a way for local businesses to protect nature and link their brands to conservation at the same time.

Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V., Administratiekantoor Brandaris B.V., Blue Jay B.V., Flamingo Communications and Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean are the first companies to sign up for STCB's symbolic adoption of a sea turtle nest.

Sea turtles are arguably Bonaire's most charismatic species, their images ubiquitous on island tour-vehicles and in local advertising. They're valued not just for their ability to draw visitors to the island's tourism-driven economy, but also for their role in maintaining the health of its ecosystems.

And they're endangered. Worldwide, the continuing decline of sea turtle populations signals changes that also threaten countless other marine animals as well as people. All three sea turtles species nesting on Bonaire are listed as endangered.

It turns out that they are a perfect vehicle for companies wishing to do good and to be seen as doing good. Businesses that take their community citizenship seriously are discovering that it pays to share that commitment with their customers. A 2011 global study of consumers found that 81% of consumers want companies to address key social and environmental issues, and 94% will even switch brands to busi-



Hawksbill Sea Turtle

nesses that support a cause.

The nest adoption program was a natural for STCB and Bonaire, according to manager Mabel Nava. "These local businesses understand that they have an important role in protecting the natural resources and the environment on which we all depend." A symbolic adoption supports the work STCB does to ensure nesting success for Bonaire's sea turtles and it also allows companies to share highlights of their adoption with customers and employees.

Throughout the season, STCB staff and 26 volunteer Beachkeepers walk the beaches to locate and monitor nests, relocate vulnerable nests that are laid in the flood zone, release newborn turtles that become trapped underground during hatching, report hazards, and collect and record important nesting and beach data. To learn more about the nest adoption check the STCB website and the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire Facebook page.

■ Mabel Nava, STCB

(Letters continued from page 7)

could print the baggage tag before and simply have it ready at the counter. You know they are coming. NO. Could you at least alert the desk to be ready with the wheel chair? NO. Can you check if there is space on the later flight? NO, there is none, you have to cancel now and try again tomorrow. You understand that this is someone that needs wheel chair assistance, this is not very easy, is there nobody that could make a small effort to make this happen? NO. Thank you Insel. It must be very nice to have a monopoly. Wouldn't it be nice if they had an agreement with other airlines so that you would not have to go out and re-check, and maybe even plan nice connections with large arriving flights?

Well thankfully the story does not end here... My only other hope was to check with Jet Blue if there was anything they could do. Immediately I had a cheery answer, I have an idea, let me get back to you. Shortly, I was told, no problem, we went personally to Insel, checked them in and got the baggage tag. We will get the bag, ourselves and deliver it to Insel and bring the family via transit directly to the gate. Not sure the bag will make this flight, but at least it will be on the next flight. Sounds great to e...

When the plane landed of course my mom and daughter had no idea of the plans. Figuring they were in for a mad dash, they said they felt like royalty as they were brought through and handed their boarding passes and taken straight to their gate. Moments later the crew from Jet Blue came to inform them that their bag was found and it was put on their flight. With a small effort and a great attitude things can happen! We were totally thrilled with the service.

As they arrived on Bonaire and exited with the bag, were where just recounting our sides each of how the process went when Jet Blue put the cherry on top by phoning us to make sure that everything went well and the bag arrived and that they hoped that they enjoy their vacation!

Now you might think well, this is an island attitude or something, but this was all the ground crew of Jet Blue Curacao, Insel has their own ground crew on Curacao. Why is it one could happily help out, while the other was infuriatingly unhelpful? This is training and attitude of the airline. It can be done. You can make things happen if you put some effort into your work and not simply say this is our process, follow it. Sorry if it does not work for you! I will fly Jet Blue any time. I will fly Insel only when I have no other choice.

Oh if only we could get Jet Blue directly to Bonaire (or even a triangle with the Aruba or Curacao flight)! Again, I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all of the crew of Jet Blue, but most particularly the ground crew on Curacao that made it all happen! ■

Pam W.



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