

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Bonaire Reporter- November 9-23, 2015, Year 22, Issue 20
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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**Marche di Playa
Weekly Farmers' Market**
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**HOME MADE DIJUS
FRESKU**
AW'I LAMUNCHI
AW'I TAMARIN
PARCHITA-MANGO
HORI MAS...

REFERENDUM

SI	NO
NO	SI

2 0 1 5

Information Page 3

Laura DeSalvo photo



Signs, similar to the one above, hoping to influence voters in the upcoming Referendum on December 18, have begun appearing around the island. Some of the signs hint at anti-Dutch "racism" so much so that the local Papiamentu language newspaper, *Extra*, issued a strong editorial against it. Notice that the sign itself mixes Papiamentu and Dutch words.

►The first look at corruption on the BES Islands discovered nothing much so Ard van der Steur Minister of Justice wants to do additional research on corruption in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The Dutch Council for Law Enforcement concluded that there is little factual information about corruption in the Caribbean Netherlands "This makes it difficult for the Prosecutor and National Police to proceed with criminal investigations and prosecutions," added Van der Steur.

The Justice Minister recommends that Law Enforcement gather more information about corruption and a plan of action. "Together with the OM, I will examine how the nature and extent of the corruption can be mapped, so that additional actions and measures can be formulated," he writes.

►After five years the High Court in The Hague finally closed the case against former "Union Patriotiko Boneriano" (UPB-green) leader Ramonsito Booi, ex-UPB Commissioner Burney el Hage and his wife Gina, in the so-called "Zambezi" probe regarding suspected document falsification and mortgage fraud. The case had been closed when the Bonaire Prosecutor's Office had been forced to drop the case because it could not meet a deadline set by the examining judge to complete its investi-

gation. Then in 2011, some citizens formed the Foundation Good Governance and filed a complaint with the Court of Justice to instruct local authorities to continue to pursue the trio. But corruption was added to the charges, which led another judge to again dismiss the case. The prosecution then unsuccessfully appealed the latter ruling, first to the Court of Justice and ultimately to the High Court.



►There was another armed robbery of a Chinese-owned supermarket last week. The robbers got away, but there was a good description of them and the getaway car. The police posted it on social media almost immediately! A first for Bonaire. At press time the stick-up men were still at large.



►On Sunday, October 4, between 22:45 and 23:15 there was a robbery in the house located on Playa Lechi 36 in Bonaire (Boulevard). Camera images show that on the night of the raid between 21:00 and midnight the same car, an SUV, passed more than 10 times in front of the house where the robbery was committed.

Authorities posed the photos from the security cameras on social media and asked the help of the public to identify it. If you have more information about this car, the driver, or to the robbery, contact the police by calling 715-8000 or 717-8000 or via the hotline 717-725.

►On Sunday, November 1st artwork made by inmates of the Correctional Institution Caribbean Netherlands

(JICN), the local prison, was exhibited at the *Sentro Deportivo Jorge Nicolaas*, the sports auditorium, on Kaya Amsterdam.

Several beautiful paintings by several detainees were exhibited. This time, in addition to paintings, other artwork produced by the inmates under the supervision of art teacher Andres "Addi" Figaroa, was shown.

The convicts created their artwork independently on their own initiative. During this exhibition there was an opportunity to view the artwork and paintings as well as buy them. There were photos of furniture made by the detainees that could be ordered for later delivery. The proceeds of the sales are used to provide more materials so JICN can continue to stimulate and motivate inmates to make positive use of their talents and skills.



►Work on the updated sports track at the stadium in Kralendijk is almost complete. When that happens then Bonaire will have a track that meets all international standards for athletics. Fundashon Wegu di Number Boneiru also made a financial contribution for the maintenance of the track. In addition refurbishment of the stands is almost complete and it is hoped that it will not be long before sporting activities will be held at the stadium.

►The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) wants their information to be more easily accessible to the public and has launched a Facebook page. CBS will be posting press releases, announcements and results of studies and links to the statistics and backgrounds of the studies carried out by CBS. It is also possible to ask questions. The Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/statistiekcbn.

►Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is targeting use of social media to attract more tourists to Bonaire. This followed an investigation into the use of social media marketing through tourist offices in the Caribbean, designed and implemented by Eva Sira, a student at the NHTV University of Applied Sciences in Breda, Netherlands. She examined the social media using

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Flotsam & Jetsam (Cont. from page 2)

seven different destinations in this region including Bonaire. This showed that TCB is doing well in comparison to the other locations, but it is certain that there is still room for improvement.



► You can get authentic Hungarian food on Bonaire now. Visit the booth at the southeast end of the cruise ship market. You'll love it

► On Tuesday, November 10, Breeze n' Bites restaurant at Den Laman will start with a "BBQ 'n Brights special" at 4 pm with a happy hour and around 6 pm the BBQ starts. For reservations call 717-3003. Perfect spot on the sea to view the sunset too.

► The Junior Chamber International (JCI) organization on Bonaire, Young United Bonaire (YUB), has taken the first step to become an affiliated chapter of Junior Chamber International. ■

G./L.D.

Referendum 2015



Last week the Referendum Commission held a press conference to explain the procedures leading up to the **December 18th Referendum** to assess the feeling of Bonaire voters regarding the changes on the island since the governing restructuring that began on October 10, 2010 (10-10-10). Five of the seven members of the committee were present (photo above).

The question that will be submitted to the people in the referendum will be: "Do you agree with the content given to the direct ties with the Netherlands?"

Only a "yes" or "no" answer can be given. If the voters indicate dissatisfaction, another referendum will be held to offer alternatives.

The Referendum Commission members indicated that they are impartial and neutral and sees as their duty to inform the people in the coming weeks as well as possible.

There will be three information bulletins: the first on November 13, five weeks before the Referendum. This bulletin will be a brief explanation of

the conduct of the Referendum and its consequences.

The second bulletin will be published two weeks later and will answer questions. The third bulletin will come out one week before the Referendum.

For the awareness campaign there will be a website: (Referendumbonaire2015.org) and Facebook page (Referendum Bonaire) plus advertisements in the media and some billboards.

Information meetings will be conducted at four locations: one in Rincon and three in Playa.

The Referendum Commission explained that this is a "non binding" Referendum and that the outcome specifically concerns only Bonaire. Partly for this reason the United Nations has not been invited because it is not needed. The hope is that about 11,000 voters will cast their ballot, but there is no minimum number of votes required.

The organization of polling stations is in the hands of the Main Civil Affairs



Department which handles the Island Council elections. Everyone who is legally registered can vote, including non-Dutch residents who have been registered at least five years.

The Referendum Commission will communicate in Papiamentu and Dutch, two of the three official languages in Bonaire. You can ask questions by email:

info@referendumbonaire2015.org or at an office on Kaya Korona 13 (OICN building). Open weekdays from 13:00 to 19:00. Phone: 717-1132.

Commission Members: Douwe Boersema (President); Sra. Maritza Valdink (Secretary); Sr. Stephen Rosario (Treasurer). Members: Sr. Franklin Hanse, Sr. Sherwin Pourier; Sr. Ivan Dario Perez Gomez; Sra. Jo-Ann Ruimveld. ■ *Press release*



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Word on the Street

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

I feel the earth move, under my feet.... Did you feel it? According to the Caracas news service, *Ultimas-Noticias*, on November 5 at 6:48 am the Venezuelan Seismological Research station reported an earthquake between Bonaire and Curaçao, with the epicenter located 28 kilometers southwest of Bonaire. The quake registered 2.8 magnitude and was at a shallow depth of 2.8 kilometers.



◆ More rumblings: from tourists. Local media reports that a fairly large group of tourists were quite inconvenienced when they arrived at Flamingo Airport last week and no taxis or buses were available. Seems there was a large cruise ship in town that day and all the taxis had better things to do. With airlines like TUI (formerly ArkeFly) adding flights to Bonaire, this could be a major issue.

◆ Rocargo is no longer handling the Federal Express service of Bonaire. The new FedEx office is now located in Hato at Kaya Den Haag #4. Reportedly the phone number is 717-8889 and e-mail address is altacourier@bonairelive.com.

◆ Rolling words on the street are that there is a big auto dealership shakeup coming to Bonaire. One of the oldest auto dealers on the island will no longer carry

a major brand auto maker but instead will add two other major auto makers. The "abandoned" brand will be moving to another local dealership. Stay tuned for the details.

◆ Shake your money maker: MCB has announced major new developments. In January 2016, they will begin construction of a new Playa branch at the current location of their insurance division, BSure, at the corner of Kaya Grandi and Kaya L.D. Gerharts.

In connection with these new developments some other changes are occurring. As of December 1, the MCB airport branch will be closed permanently and the Rincon branch will only be open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 to noon and from 1:15 to 3:30. Also as of December 1, the Playa and Hato branches will have new hours, 8 am to 4 pm non-stop. Because the Hato branch will now be open through lunch, the drive through window there will be discontinued.

◆ Smoother waters: Would you prefer to sail a boat on your own for the day rather than charter someone else to do it? Rumor has it that "Bare Boat Rental" is now on island. You can sail a 35 foot Beneteau Oceanis on your own and spend the day however you please. Call 701-9999 for details. ■

Bula
Bonchi



Bonaire Heart Week Begins on Saturday, November 14th with education, sports activities, and a new website, hartvoorbonaire.org.

Saturday, November 14th the premiere, with a symposium on the theme nutrition and heart disease.

Saturday, November 14th at 09:30 a symposium for doctors in the lecture hall of the San Francisco Hospital. For registration and further information, interested parties can contact svru-taal@fundashonmariadal.org.

Sunday, November 15th, a triathlon at Plaza Resort beginning at 3 pm. Events include 500 meter swim, 20 kilometer cycle, ending with a 5 kilometer plus run. Both individual athletes and teams can participate in this triathlon. The proceeds from the event will, after deducting the costs, be as low as possible, thanks to the sponsors, and proceeds will go entirely to the Heart Foundation for Bonaire. The Foundation provides water stations, and all participants will receive a T-shirt. The first three individual bidders and the first team of three people to sign up will receive an attractive stainless steel water bottle. There are great prizes for the vari-



Automated external defibrillator (AED)

ous categories.

Sunday, November 15th the new website goes on line with a list of the locations of all AEDs on Bonaire.

Monday, November 16 to Friday, November 20th presentations each morning in the various health centers in the districts, including information on the prevention of cardiovascular disease and the tracking capabilities of a BLS / AED course, by volunteers of the Foundation Heart Bonaire and Professor Henk ter Preferred, cardiologist.

For more information contact Heart Foundation for Bonaire: www.hartvoorbonaire.org ■ Press release

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Zurich, Switzerland



Thomas Wellinger and his friends partying Bonaire Style say, "Bon bini, from Zurich Switzerland. *The Reporter* goes around the world ;-) See you soon again."

WIN A PRIZE

Take a photo of yourself with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Email it to 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! ■

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Times Square, NY, USA



Bonaire residents Kenny and Margaret Treadaway wrapped up their month-long US vacation by spending their last 10 days in New York City. They sent us these photos of themselves with *The Bonaire Reporter* in the middle of Times Square, New York. The small photo is right under the sign at *The New York Times* building. ■



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Parrot Population Thriving

Lauren Schmaltz, the General Manager of the Echo Foundation that focuses on protection of Bonaire's endangered Amazon parrot (Lora), reports, "The wild parrot chicks have fledged! Another breeding season has finished and young chicks across the island have left their nests. I'm thrilled to be able to report that we found no evidence of poaching at any of the nests that the Echo team was monitoring. Instead, the hills are echoing with the sound of juvenile parrots begging mom and dad for at least one more 'free lunch.'"

The team are done with monitoring of nests but we are all still out and about, busy keeping a close watch on the young parrots. Now that they have fledged they are learning how to navigate through a much bigger, more complex, and sometimes more dangerous world. At the Dos Pos Conservation Centre, where there are several nests nearby, there has been a Caracara flying over regularly. These birds of prey do not attack the parrots but seem to get a kick out of stirring up all the birds. But there are also cars, windows and power lines that these youngsters



A young Lora

have never before encountered which could cause serious harm.

So far, everyone seems to be doing amazingly well at adapting to the big wide world. This is great news for us because we can focus our energies on the upcoming rainy season and the opportunity to help restore their native habitat, so that their children can have a healthier, safer home in which to grow up.

But your support is still needed. Go to <https://www.razoo.com/story/Help-Rescued-And-Wild-Yellow-Shouldered-Amazons-On-Bonaire> to donate. See page 13 for more information or call +599 701 1188 or email info@echobonaire.org for private tour.

■ Press release/ Lauren Schmaltz

Study & Career Event Coming Up



A past Study and Career Fair

From Thursday, November 12 to Saturday, November 14, the **Study & Career Event** will take place on Bonaire organized by Fundashon Boneiru Ban Bek and Skills Netherlands Caribbean. For 12 years, there has been a Study and Career Fair organized to help the youth of Bonaire when making a choice for further education or occupation. **The motto of this year is "The Sky Is The Limit".**

The motto encourages prospective students to get the best out of themselves, not to think of limitations but opportunities. This is reflected by the different aspects of the event: further professional opportunities and the presence of schools from different regions. With this information market young people

can make an inspired choice for their future.

The Study & Career Event Bonaire 2015 consists of two parts. **The first is aimed at students who are going to choose an MBO study and the second on students who aspire to study at a college or university.** It is known that the first group mainly continues to train on the island, while the second group largely goes abroad to the Netherlands or another country. With this event we can create a much more precise match between educational institutions, employers and prospective students, making it much more personal. Of course, the young people are free to choose which parts they visit.

Sea Turtles on Bonaire Don't Hurtle Through Turtle Food!



Tending and cleaning the lines protecting the grassy areas

DL

Lac Bay on Bonaire is a hot spot for windsurfers as well as for endangered turtles. Most of the time both species get along well; but when it comes to food, the friendship ends.

Imagine learning to windsurf in a sunny Caribbean paradise, where the ocean is warm, turquoise and shallow, and green sea turtles ever so often stick their heads out of the water to look at your athletic progress – and more importantly to take a breath. Well, in Lac Bay on Bonaire, you can.

What seems like a very peaceful coexistence can be dangerous sometimes, especially for turtles. Fortunately, collisions between windsurfers and surfacing turtles are rare – but they do happen. However, something else threatens marine life in Lac Bay even more: people racing right through the turtle food (seagrass) and thereby destroying it.

To protect and regrow these brownish and sort of muddy looking seagrass beds, in 2009 Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) set up several floating fences on the windsurf beach of Sorobon. These are made out of plastic tubes and are clearly marked by signs to warn surfers not to enter these turtle feeding areas – as bottom scraping fins destroy the roots of the grass, as much as stepping on them.

Not only is seagrass essential for green sea turtles, it is also an important factor in balancing the bay's ecosystems as a whole. The seagrass beds are home to various microbes, critters and fish species, and seagrasses function like filters which constantly clean the water. Their roots also perform an important role by anchoring the sands in place in Lac

Bay.

To prevent the floating fences from sinking or drifting, members of STCB clean the lines weekly from fast growing algae and check if they are still fixed on their buoys and anchors. Many local and visiting volunteers have already helped STCB do this important work. "The more people we have, the quicker the work is done and the more fun it actually is," says Cosette Larash (24), STCB Intern and marine conservation student from Maryland, USA. And: "Kids and parents can learn a lot about marine life on Bonaire when they join us."

STCB Project Coordinator, Sue Willis, adds that "maintaining these floating lines is important for Bonaire's endangered sea turtles and without the lines and the efforts of staff and volunteers at STCB this important ecosystem would be destroyed."

So next time you wonder why some brownish muddy areas disturb the perfect image you might have of a Caribbean beach, remember: this is delicious turtle food and it keeps your turquoise dream water clear. Just help to keep it growing. Because a Caribbean paradise without turtles? That's just unthinkable!

Want to help? If you are ready for line cleaning – usually taking place on Tuesday mornings at Sorobon Beach, send an email to sue@bonaireturtles.org. Volunteers should be prepared to work standing in the shallow water under the strong Caribbean sun, so long sleeves, sunscreen, a hat and swimming gear are required. The work itself is much easier than learning to windsurf! ■ *Story & photo by Lisette van Marrewijk, Communication Coordinator, STCB*

The Program in Brief:

Thursday, November 12, and Friday, November 13 - Skills competitions (v) vocational students. This is linked to the World Skills program where students get a chance to show their skills. These races are a first selection for the World-skills-Americas in 2016 in Mexico and Skills Talents in the Netherlands. Employers of Bonaire as well as some vocational schools will be invited from the region to present themselves.

Saturday, November 14 - Closing Skills competitions and opening of the Bachelor / Master information market. Universities and colleges from North and Latin Amer-

ica, the Caribbean and the Netherlands will be present. Employers from Bonaire can present opportunities for higher education on the island. There will also be presentations and workshops.

The Study & Career Event Bonaire will be held this year in and around the auditorium of the SGB (high school) at Kaya Frater Odulfinus. If you have questions please contact Rosemary de Jong Coordinator Study & Career Event 2015. Bonaire Tel: +599 701-9797 or email studyfairbonaire@gmail.com ■ *Press release/*

Dive Friends Did It Again!



On Saturday, October 17th, Dive Friends Bonaire organized their traditional Quarterly Clean Up Dive. Check in was from 09:45 at the Dive Inn location in Kralendijk. Briefing at 1000. This time the underwater world of the South Pier was the goal of the mission of no less than 116 volunteers, divers and non-divers pictured above. A bunch of lion fish hunters with their special “elves” joined the volunteers and there were divers specialized in the recovery of fishing line. **All in all, the volunteers collected 2130 items.** Among those items no less than 424 pieces of fishing line. (As we all know fishing line, especially loops of fishing line, are a threat for turtles as they can get trapped.) The usual bottles and tins were found, plastic, wood, bricks, scuba gear, lead, and a pair of sunglasses.

After the dive there was a break for a nap. At 1800 a potluck barbecue was organized at the Hamlet Location of Dive Friends Bonaire. Another sporty, successful and environment friendly event organized by Dive Friends. Thank you all! ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



GREEN TURTLE SPEARED

At the end of September a Green turtle was spotted with a long metal spike sticking out of its neck near Andrea II dive site by an STCB volunteer. The green turtle was on the surface in distress and swam towards the volunteer. According to the volunteer, the metal spike was embedded about an inch into its flesh near the neck. The spike appeared to be a thin home-made harpoon, 39 inches long with a nick in the

one end for a string and a point on the other end. The volunteer was able to remove the spear by gently rotating the spike out of its neck. The green turtle did not resist, indicating that there was no barb on the end. After the harpoon was removed there was no blood oozing from the wound and no sign of any infection.

This is worrisome because on Bonaire it is forbidden to use hand spears or poles with hooks to hunt or catch marine life. Since

1991, it is also prohibited by law to kill, catch or be in possession of sea turtles (from the Marine Environment Ordinance Article 14). The penalty of violating this law may result in a maximum fine of \$560,000.

Thanks to the great care and attention of this experienced STCB volunteer the turtle survived. In case you encounter a turtle in distress please call STCB Hotline 780-0433 so we can help. ■ *STCB Press Release/ Reporter file photo of another turtle*



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On The Island Since... February 2008 - Yhannireth Pinto



Yhanni and two of her sons, little Alex and Santiago. Her eldest son Juan is in Holland

"In August 2007 we came here for a vacation. We were supposed to go to Cuba but there was a hurricane so we decided to go one week to Aruba and one week to Bonaire. We spent the week here and we loved the place. One month later we moved here. It was really easy. I came alone with the kids because my husband was working in Trinidad. As he was going to finish that job in December and then go to another location, the children and I needed a place to stay where they could go to school in the meantime. Immigration told me I needed a hundred papers and that I had to leave the island

for the time being. Well, after going back and forth a lot we got our residency in February 2008.

Then my husband also came, but most of the time he was travelling for work. We thought we would be here for one year and then we would see. Well, the year passed and I didn't want to leave Bonaire anymore, mainly in the interests of my children.

Before we came here my boys had also been in school in Trinidad and they had learned English quickly. However, Dutch on Bonaire was something else. It was very difficult and both of them lost one

school year. Juan, who was 13, went to SGB, and Santiago, 11 at the time, went to Colegio Reina Beatrix elementary school. Neither one of them spoke one word of Dutch or Papiamentu. So after that year, when they were doing better, it was very important for me to stay. I didn't want to move them anymore. I wanted them to finish high school here."

"When I came here," Santiago says, "it was really tough! But since we were small we'd always been moving around and dealing with new experiences, so this was just one more, but... it was the toughest one - because of the language. They didn't have a special program for me. I went to regular classes and my brother and I learned Dutch by ourselves. We had private lessons too, but that didn't help much. However, in spite of everything, I wasn't unhappy at all and I was never bullied. There were so many different cultures in my class, so many nationalities, so who was going to bully who?"

The first two years in elementary school were the hardest, but in high school I did really well and I finished VWO-4 while my brother Juan graduated Havo-4. He is 21 now. He's in Groningen, Holland, studying engineering. I want to leave the island too because I am 19 and there isn't much going on here, but I don't know if I'll like Holland. It's way too different from what I've heard and I don't like the cold. And I might not be able to do my favorite sports there- surfing and wakeboarding. Also, if you're alone in Holland it can be terribly hard. You know, I am Venezuelan and I feel Venezuelan.



Sample Yhanni's delicious arepas every Friday at Bistro de Paris.

I've got all my family there and I love them and I miss them a lot, but for now I don't want to go back to Venezuela. Well, when I get my Dutch passport, I will decide what I'll do."

"When we came here," Yhanni says, "the boys were really happy and they loved sailing and there was a whole lot of wind all year round. For me it was like magic. Almost immediately I felt at home and I made friends very easily. Besides I just love the sea, so... it was perfect. The relaxed mode of the island made me forget about city life and I didn't miss it at all.

In 2008 I got pregnant. I wasn't planning on having more babies, but Alex is very special, a little Venezuelan boy, con-

(Continued on page 9)



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

(Continued from page 8)

ceived in Qatar and born on Bonaire in 2009. I stayed at home with him for two years, then I started working at Buddy Dive. At the time they used to have a live-aboard – a very luxurious dive boat – stationed at the Galapagos Islands. I was in charge of all the bookings for that boat, including transport, tours etc. I did that for three years and then Buddy Dive closed the operations and I was out of a job.

Then the idea of the arepas came up. I am a very social person and I love to invite people over and I used to invite them often for an arepas night at my house. In 2011 there was the first festival put on by the Venezuelan consulate. Some friends of mine asked me to join them to make arepas for the festival. I was still working at Buddy Dive and I told them I didn't want to do it; I simply didn't have the time. So, a year later I contacted them to do the arepas. I was better prepared, but then they told me they didn't want to join me. It had been too much work. I did it alone and it was a big success. Shortly after, during Carnaval, I had my stand and I was sold out in no time. I was really surprised by how many people liked them. Then, when I stopped working for Buddy Dive, the idea of making arepas once a week came up. I talked to Patrice of Bistro de Paris and right away he said, 'Yes! That's a good idea!' That's almost a year and a half ago!

An arepa is like a corn bread – cooked on the grill. However, there are different ways. It's crunchy, although it can be soft as well, and it can be opened like pita bread. There is no limit to what you can fill it with, but most popular are *Pabellon* (shredded beef with fried plantains and

white cheese, avocado and black beans) and the other one is *Reina Pepiada* (shredded chicken mixed with avocado and mayonnaise). But I also have pork, chicken, fresh fish, octopus, seviche, seafood casserole, tenderloin and vegetarian arepas.

The experience at Bistro is great and the clients are very faithful. They don't get bored with my arepas which makes me happy. And the tourists are always ready to try them. They are not afraid to eat something they don't know. It's something I enjoy doing and getting great feedback is fantastic. It makes me proud! Also, my son Santiago is helping me out

“I wasn't unhappy at all and I was never bullied. There were so many different cultures in my class, so many nationalities, so who was going to bully who?”

by making and grilling the arepas, and the clients love him. He has beautiful charisma and he's sweet and charming and he enjoys serving. Santiago is a relaxed kid. He plays the guitar...

“.....and he plays with me and gives me kisses,” little Alex says sweetly and we all laugh, touched by his remark.

“In 2014 Alex's father and I got divorced,” Yhanni continues. “Luckily I have wonderful friends who have supported me in everything and people like Irma and Mica are my long-time friends from when I first came here. I have no

family on Bonaire and of course I miss them.

I was born in Caracas and I grew up in Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela, with my aunt and uncle and my cousins while my mom was working in Caracas. I can say my childhood was the best. When I finished elementary school I went with my father's sister to New Jersey in the US, where she lived. I went to high school there and it was fantastic. Everything was different. I also was a babysitter for the neighbor's three children – I don't know how she dared, but she let me. And every morning I delivered newspapers. In Venezuela we are not used to having children working,



Yhanni at work

of all nationalities, its sea life and the security. I don't see myself moving from here, although one never knows. My eldest son Juan is building his life in Holland, and my second son, Santiago, is about to leave, but my little boy Alex is only six and I am delighted to have him with me. He speaks four languages, has two swimming diplomas and is going for the third and he is utterly happy here. So for the near future I'm focusing on Alex, my arepa business and a little bit of a beach life!” ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



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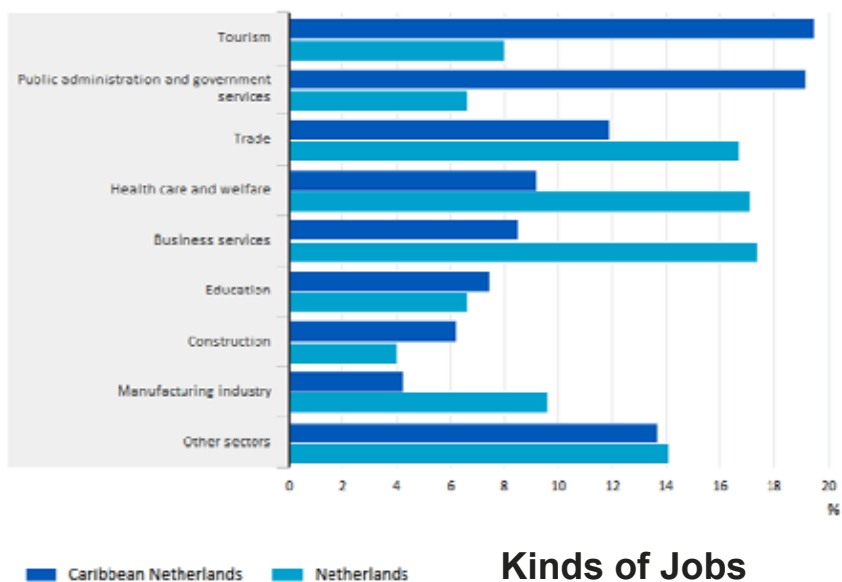
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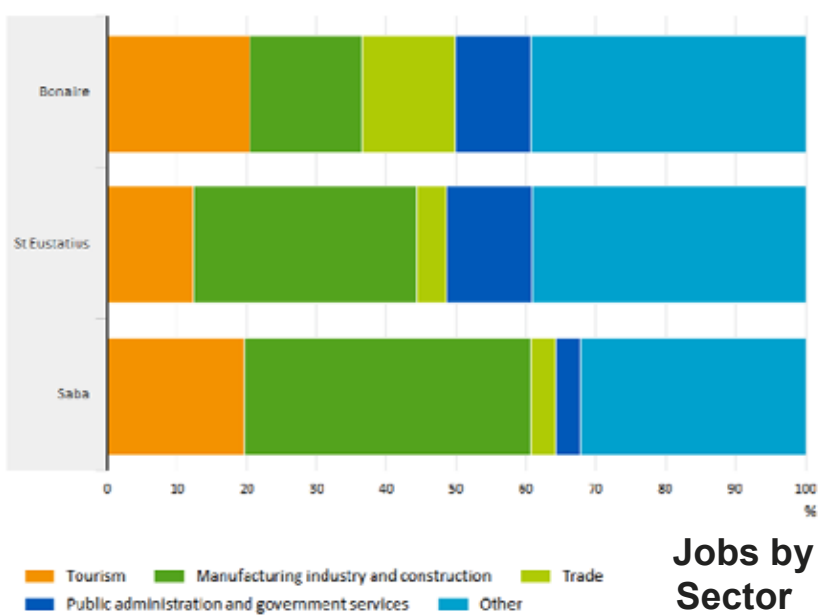
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Lots of Interesting Bonaire Statistics



Jobs Caribbean Netherlands, share by sector



Tourism accounts for a substantial part of employment on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. On Bonaire and Saba, 20% of jobs are tourism-related, versus 12% on St Eustatius. In the rest of the Netherlands, tourism accounts for 8% of jobs. **Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reports that the government sector is by far the largest employer on the islands of Caribbean Netherlands.**

The number of employee jobs in Caribbean Netherlands totaled 9,500 in 2014, marginally down from 2013. On the larger island of Bonaire, there are approximately 7,800 jobs. Apart from government and tourism, several hundred people are employed in the sectors trade, construction and financial and business services. The smaller islands of St Eustatius and Saba account for 1100 and 770 employee jobs respectively.

The average annual wage in Caribbean Netherlands was \$24,420 in 2014, an increase of 1% compared to 2013. On average, wages were highest on St Eustatius and lowest on Bonaire.

Structure of employment different from the European part of the Netherlands.

The distribution of jobs over the various sectors on the islands differs from the rest of the Netherlands. Proportionally, employment in the tourism sector is more than twice as high as in the Netherlands. The share of government jobs is also much larger than in the Netherlands. The absolute number of jobs on the islands is fairly low. As a result, the number of jobs at local government level is relatively high.

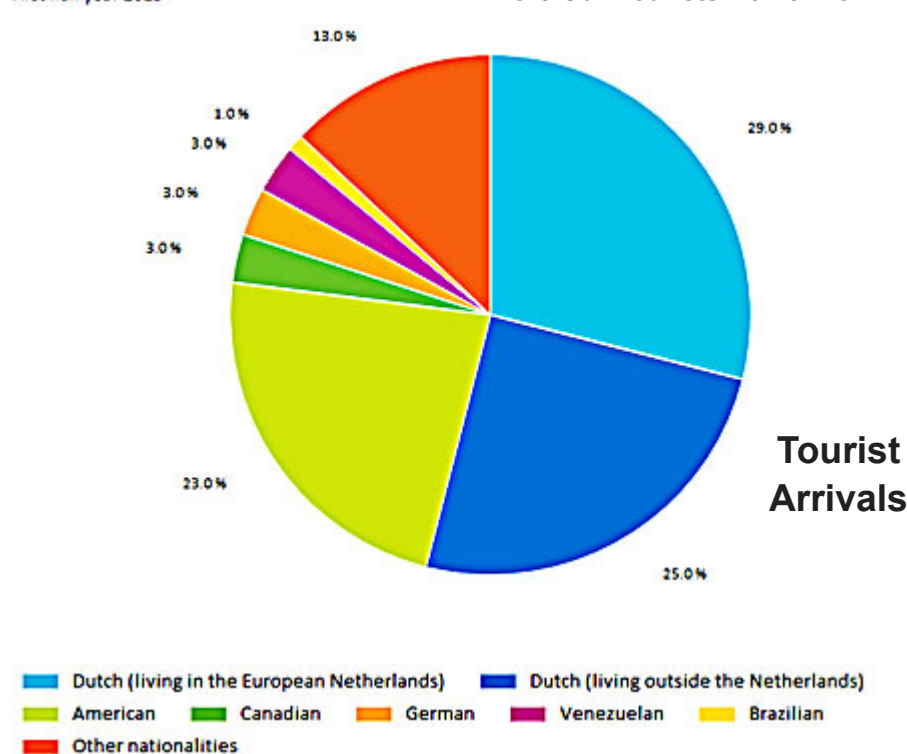
What also plays a part is the fact that a number of facilities (like specialist medical care) and business sectors (like agriculture and business services) are hardly or not at all present on the islands. Hence, the structure of employment is quite different from the rest of the Netherlands. ■ *CBS Report*

Sources:

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=D&DM=SLNL&PA=81433NED&D1=0&D2=0&D3=0&D4=0&D5=0.2,5-9.12-17.19-20.23-25.27-28&D6=l&HD=151019-1133&HDR=T&STB=G1.G2.G3.G4.G5>
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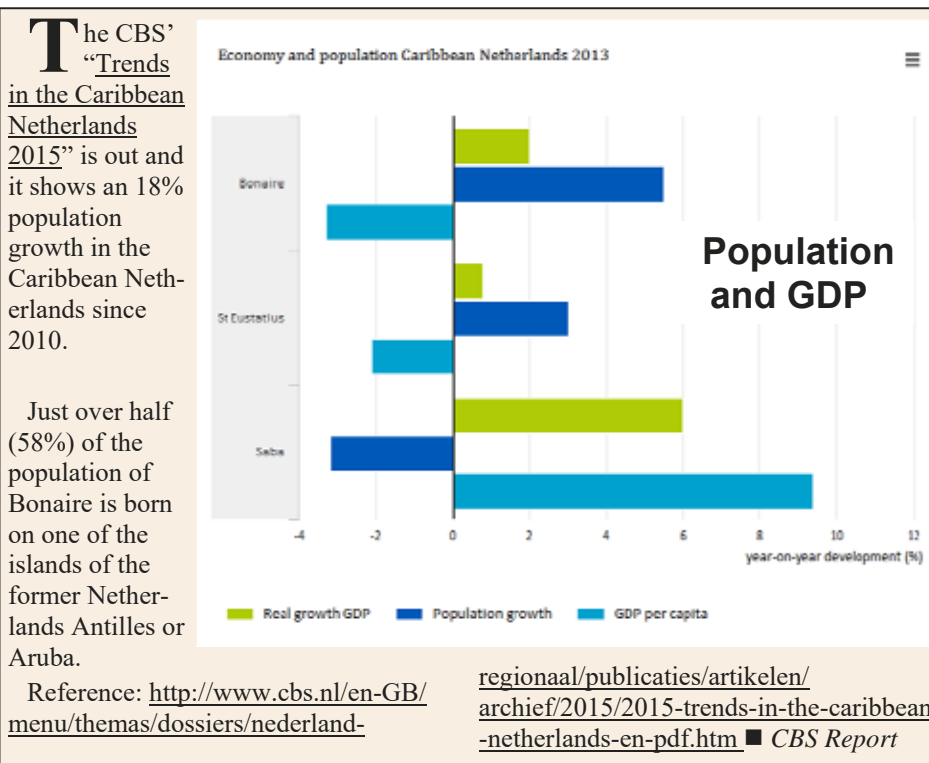
First half year 2015

Where Our Tourists Come From



As reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Bonaire received 5% more air passengers as tourists in the first half of 2015 than in the same period in 2014, Saba 4%. Tourism to St Eustatius did not increase.

In the first half of 2015, **68.8 thousand tourists landed on Bonaire**, an increase of over 5% compared to the first six months in 2014. Especially April saw more tourists visiting the island: 1,300 more than one year previously. ■ *CBS Report*





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The Bike Professionals

Spectacular Exhibition Opens At Mangazina di Rei

It is Friday, 23 of October. In the dark I'm driving towards Rincon. Just before entering Rincon, on the right hand side there is light and already a lot of parked cars. This is the place to be. I am welcomed with *awa limunchi* (lime water) or tamarind, a refreshing drink. After a meet and greet with music from a local Rincon band, "Silver Bullet," a presentation is given by **Danilo Christiaan**, the project manager for Mangazina di Rei and his wife **Heleen**.

They show what happened during the preparation for the exposition. For example, some materials arrived for making boards, but some parts were missing. These parts would be sent afterwards and they could track them. This caused a lot of tension because the parts were traveling within Europe and in South America, and every day they showed up in a different place, from Germany to Saint Maarten to Puerto Rico. But, in the end they arrived just one day before the opening, and that was a relief. A lot of work was done in that day and they got a lot of help from the people of Rincon. The presentation was really funny, with a lot of pictures of all the people who had helped as volunteers. A lot of elders from Rincon had provided them with stories and knowledge about the past.

After Danilo and Heleen there were speeches held by **Gilbert Isabella** (Rijksvertegenwoordiger- Kingdom Representative), **Commissioner Benito**

Dirksz (*gedeputeerde*), **Timoteo Silberie** (SKAL, cultural department OLB) and historian **Bòi Antoin**.

Gilbert Isabella was delighted to be able to give a gift out of his budget for local initiatives: he offered a free ticket for the exposition for every child from group 8. His enthusiasm for Mangazina di Rei lies in its goal to preserve history, old habits and developments on Bonaire and pass them on to the youth of today. Benito Dirksz mentioned the importance of knowing about the time of slavery and the impact this has had. Timoteo mentioned that at first he wasn't very pleased about the new exposition because it meant that Mangasina di Rei had to close for some time, but now he is convinced it was worth it. He mentioned the educative goals of the project: how children can learn from older people. The Mangasina also plays another important part: it is very attractive for tourists to learn more about Bonairean nature, culture and traditions. Bòi Antoin mentioned the importance of Rincon, the first village for slaves on Bonaire, surrounded by nature. Family names are a memory from those days. They originate from all parts of the world like Spain, Africa, Holland.

And then the moment came for which



Spectacular nature poster by artist Rajelle

everybody had come: the curtain was drawn and everybody was invited to come in and see the exposition.

I can tell you it is a very interesting exposition with a lot of information about nature, culture and history. A lot of pictures and facts even the real locals do not always know. For example do you know the answer to these questions?

- ◆ Why do so many older people in Rincon have their birthday in September?
- ◆ What role did the church play in education and was there any school during the time of slavery?
- ◆ What kind of food is really local?
- ◆ What instruments were played and where do the melodies come from?
- ◆ I will give the answer to the first question. For the other answers you will



This is Adelfa Ines "De" Sint Jago of Rincon, born in 1936. She used to sew on this machine when she was young. Her story is one of the many told in the exhibition.

have to go to the exposition in Mangazina di Rei!

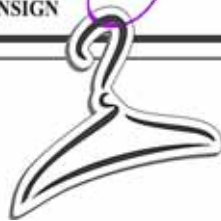
- ◆ The answer is: just after the period of slavery most of the Rincon men went to work abroad, then came back to Bonaire for the Christmas holiday. Then after nine months, in September, you would get the results of their visit in the form of children.

■ *Story by Justine Verschuur. Photos by Tom Bergh*



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A Garden? Just Do It

S*pondias Mombin*. Hmm, strange words. What is it, you wonder?

Well, I tell you what. It's a fruit which grows right here on Bonaire known as **Hoba**. It's not a popular fruit because it is small with a rather big seed and it's sour. But don't underestimate it. When you make a jelly from it or syrup or stew it with some brown sugar and cinnamon, it tastes like heaven on your tongue.

One grows in my neighbor's yard. It's a big tree and about twice a year there were buckets full of fruit just spoiling there. When I showed my neighbors how to make different things with this Hoba they and their family enjoyed it so much that since then I have had to stand in line for it. There are some Hoba trees growing on Bonaire, and I want to tell you more about this great fruit.

The *Spondias Mombin* or *Spondias Purpurea* is a species of flowering plant in the cashew family, *anacardiaceae*, known here as Hoba. It's native to the tropical Americas, including the West Indies. It's most commonly known as *jocote*, derived from the Nahuatl word, *xocotl*, meaning any kind of sour or acidic fruit. There is also the purple mombin known on Bonaire as the *Maka Pruim* (in Dutch, *Rode Mombin*). Also well known in the tropics is another fruit of that family: the Golden Apple (*Pommisiter* in Surinam).

The Mombin fruit is rarely cultivated. The mature fruit has a leathery skin and a thin layer of pulp. The fruit hanging in nu-

merous branched, terminal clusters of a dozen or more is ovoid or oblong, has an aromatic, very juicy and very acid pulp. Fruits ripen in August and in December-January.

The tree is fast growing in the sun from large cuttings which root quickly. The tree can also grow from seed and new plants can come from the thick roots. The tree can become huge, up to 30 meters high, which can be a sweet house for birds and iguanas on Bonaire.

Twice a year the tree bears fruit, then for some months one can pick buckets of Hoba. Fruiting usually starts at about five years of age. The older the tree becomes the more fruit it bears. Often just after the last fruits, the tree starts blossoming again and then some months later one can again enjoy the yellow-orange ripe fruit.

Medicinal Uses

The fruit juice is used as a fever reliever and a diuretic. The bark is used as a purgative or cathartic and in local applications for leprosy. The bark extract is used for severe cough, causing relief through vomiting. The dry pulverized bark is applied as a dressing to a circumcision wound. An extract of mashed leaves is used for washing a swollen face. The leaves, ground with sugar, are rubbed on the mouth and gums. A leaf infusion is a common cough remedy or used as a laxative for fever with constipation. Leaves crushed with lemon are effective for worms in children. An extract of pounded leaves is used as an eye lotion and a juice pressed



Hoba fruits

And I just stew them with some sugar for awhile and they become the most delicious dessert.

Other common names for *Spondias Mombin*

In the Spanish speaking Caribbean it's called *Jobo*, derived from the Carib language. In the English speaking Caribbean, Yellow *Mombin* or Hog Plum. In Surinam its called *Mope*; in Brasil, *Caja*; in Peru *Mango Ciruelo*; in Jamaica, Gully Plum; in Ghana, Ashanti Plum; in Nigeria, *Yeye*, *Ambaralla*; in Srilanka, *Amra*; in Hindi, *Jungle Aam*; in Vietnam, *Coc*; in Panama, *Mangotin* and on Bonaire and Curacao it's known as **Hoba**. ■
Nature lover, Angliet



from young warm leaves is given to children for stomach troubles. In Surinam's traditional medicine, the infusion of the leaves is used as a treatment of eye inflammation, diarrhea and venereal diseases. A tea of the flowers and leaves is taken to relieve stomach biliousness, cystitis and throat inflammation. The seed has an oil content of 3-5%.

What to do with Hoba

The extracted juice is used in making ice cream, cold beverages, jelly and jam. In the Amazonas the fruit is used mainly to produce wine sold as *Vihno de Taperiba*. In Guatemala the fruit is made into a cider-like drink. Mexicans pickle the green fruits in vinegar and eat them like olives with salt and chili as they do with purple mombin.

In certain areas in Asia the leaves are eaten as a vegetable. It tastes a little bitter but it goes well with dried fish or shrimp.

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Barracuda Swimmers Win



Winning Barracudas

From October 30 to November 1 was the **14th Aruba Dolphins Invitational** place. This very well organized swimming competition was held in the 50-meter pool Pisina Olimpico Roly Bisslik on Aruba. For this event special medals were designed in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Aruba Dolphins swimming club.

A total of 11 swimming clubs participated in the competition. They came from Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten, Venezuela, Argentina, North America and of course Bonaire. After three days of swimming, the Bonaire Barracudas, with 12 swimmers, finished in an excellent 5th place, right after the two major associations from Aruba and Curaçao.

Also individuals achieved good results. In the Women's Class (15 years and older) **Evy Witlox** got on her favorite *rugcrawlafstanden* (50, 100 and 200m) three gold medals and also swam a meet record in the 50m backstroke. In the same age category there were also two bronze medals for **Anita Smits** (400m freestyle) and **Annouck Loos** (200m breaststroke). In the Girls 11-12 year earned **Ruby van de Berge** a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle. **Nikolai Pedersen** (Boys 13-14 years) won a silver medal at 50 and 100m breaststroke and a bronze medal in the 50 and 100m freestyle and all in big

personal bests. Among Boys 9-10 years **Marcel Spruit** won a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke and a bronze medal in the 50m breaststroke.

Besides the above swimmers **Chaz Sweers** (Girls 13-14 years), **Amber Groenestijn** (Girls 8 years and under), **Ricky York Hormechea Pino** (Men 15 years and older) and **Basi Shoot** (Boys 8 years and under) won one or more ribbons. **Noah Schaub** (Boys 8 years and under) participated in a real swimming contest for the first time and received a nice cap for his performance.

The ladies of the club won medals in the relay events: a Silver Medal in the 4 x 50m medley 15 years and older, with **Evy**, the 50m backstroke, the 50m breaststroke **Annouck**, **Anita** the 50m butterfly and **Simone Sweers** took the 50m front crawl on its behalf. A Bronze Medal was for the same four on the 4 x 50m freestyle 15 years and older.

In total, the Bonaire Barracudas got 3 gold, 7 silver and 10 bronze medals and 38 ribbons. A fantastic achievement!

Participation in this contest is made possible by our sponsors Insel Air and Crooij Flipse & Insurance. For this we want to thank them deeply. ■

Story & Photo by Simone Sweers

Special Olympics OPEN WATER SWIM



Beach Action



Chio and team get interviewed



Waiting To Race

On Saturday, October 31st, the third annual Open Water Swim for the members of Special Olympics Bonaire (SOB) was held by coach Chio Semeleer together with his team. According to Chio this is a continuation of the program for the members of Special Olympics Bonaire, the goal being to organize the Bonairean Caribbean Games in the future. The three-hour event was held at Coco Beach where the athletes swam in the 300 meter, Breast

and Freestyle competitions.

All the Special Olympics Bonaire athletes received a medal from Governor Edison Rijna.

Special Olympics Bonaire would like to thank their major sponsor Digicel and also Coco Beach for helping to make this event successful. For more photos go to the Special Olympics Bonaire Facebook page. ■ Press Release



Indian Buffet

At Bonaire Basics
Kaya Korona 47, Kralendijk

Friday, November 13

We are having our Indian Buffet again!
Menu:

Pumpkin Soup, Spinach Curried, Chayoto Squash Curry, Baigan Patiala: Eggplant tempered with onion seed and fresh herbs, Fish Curry, Lamb Masala, Mung bean curry, Aloo Gobhi: A classical, potatoes and cauliflower masala, Navrathan Curry: Vegetables, fruits and nuts in a creamy korma sauce.

We open at 6pm for drinks and buffet starts at 7pm!

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 09		04:27	11:23	20:11			
		0.20 ft	0.82 ft	0.15 ft		6:30	18:08
	00:34	04:24	11:57	21:13			
Tue 10	0.28 ft	0.25 ft	0.85 ft	0.08 ft		6:31	18:07
	12:32	22:03			New Moon		
Wed 11	0.89 ft	0.02 ft				6:31	18:07
	13:10	22:44					
Thu 12	0.92 ft	-0.04 ft				6:31	18:07
	13:50	23:19					
Fri 13	0.94 ft	-0.08 ft				6:32	18:07
	14:31	23:49					
Sat 14	0.96 ft	-0.11 ft				6:32	18:07
	15:14						
Sun 15	0.97 ft					6:33	18:07
		00:16	07:05	09:01	15:59		
Mon 16	-0.13 ft	0.39 ft	0.38 ft	0.96 ft		6:33	18:07
		00:42	06:54	10:45	16:45		
Tue 17	-0.14 ft	0.44 ft	0.38 ft	0.93 ft		6:33	18:07
		01:08	07:10	12:07	17:32		
Wed 18	-0.15 ft	0.53 ft	0.36 ft	0.86 ft		6:34	18:07
		01:35	07:37	13:24	18:22		
Thu 19	-0.14 ft	0.64 ft	0.32 ft	0.77 ft		6:34	18:07
		02:03	08:12	14:40	19:15		
Fri 20	-0.13 ft	0.76 ft	0.27 ft	0.66 ft		6:35	18:07
		02:34	08:51	15:58	20:14		
Sat 21	-0.11 ft	0.89 ft	0.21 ft	0.54 ft		6:35	18:07
		03:07	09:35	17:15	21:21		
Sun 22	-0.08 ft	1.00 ft	0.13 ft	0.41 ft		6:36	18:07
		03:42	10:22	18:31	22:39		
Mon 23	-0.03 ft	1.09 ft	0.03 ft	0.31 ft		6:36	18:07

**For Sale: Canon EOS 70-200 f4 L zoom
lens.** Non IS. \$500 Excellent condition with
case, caps, hood, and generic brand tripod
ring. Brad Swanson 717-8814

REAL ESTATE/RENTALS/ ETC...

Oceanfront 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo at
Sand Dollar for rent, Feb. 1-Aug 1, 2016.
\$1500/month + utilities. Pool, tennis courts,
dive shops on site. Contact: [lpet-
rich@hotmail.com](mailto:lpet-rich@hotmail.com).

Small studio for rent as of end of Sep-
tember. With roof terrace, 2 minutes walk-
ing from Bachelors Beach. Completely fur-
nished including water, electricity, wifi, TV
price \$325 per month. 2 months deposit.
Year contract. No cats, no dogs, one person
only. Address Kaya Uranus 4b Bel-
nem. Theresebonaire@gmail.com mobile
phone 00 599 785-9900 home phone 00
599 717-2698

**House for rent at Zuid Nikiboko (Kaya
Avelino Cicilia #62)- 2 bedrooms** each with

airco, 1 bathroom, kitchen/living room/
dining room/porch in front/washing room/
back porch. Excl. water, electric, cable &
Internet. 1 month deposit, Available 1
December, Call 786-1800 for informa-
tion.

**For rent: in Hato, Kaya Gobernador
Nicolaas Debrot:** furnished villa and or
holiday home with three bedrooms and
two bathrooms located fifty meters from
the ocean and the beach. Free internet
included. December 25th – January 30th
or part(s) of this period. Mail to:
digitalis1956@hotmail.com

**For rent: in Hato, Kaya Gobernador
Nicolaas Debrot/Kaya Groningen:** two
bedroom, one bathroom apartment and
one bedroom, one bathroom apartment.
Free internet. Short and/or long term from
November 1st. Mail to:
digitalis1956@hotmail.com

For sale by owner in Hato along the
Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot: the
house with the helmets. Mail to:
digitalis1956@hotmail.com

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAPACITY	CRUISE LINE
Cruise Ship Schedule					
16	Monday	9-11-15	Silver Whisper	1400-2200	296
17	Tuesday	10-11-15	Monarch	0800-1800	2744
18	Wednesday	11-11-15	Oosterdam	0800-1800	2388
19	Friday	13-11-15	Star Flyer	1400-2200	70
20	Monday	16-11-15	Royal Princess	1200-1900	3600
21	Tuesday	17-11-15	Monarch	0800-1800	2744
22	Tuesday	17-11-15	Carnival Sunshine	0800-1600	2974
23	Wednesday	18-11-15	Aida Diva	0800-1800	2194
24	Friday	20-11-15	Eclipse	0800-1700	2858

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 Playa** -Every Saturday, 8am-noon, Jong Bonaire, locally made and grown products

• **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**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. 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

November 9-23, 2015

• **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 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.

• **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or emailing: info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

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 De-

ember 25th and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Bridge Club - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200or788-2819 or peejeese@gmail.com

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; Martytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:00 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8332.

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 12 to 14—2015 Study & Career Event—more on page 6

Friday, Nov. 13—Indian Buffet at Go Green, Bonaire Basics. More on page 13

Saturday, Nov. 14—"Stingrays" live performance-Dick, Douwe, Ilse, Wensley 10pm at Cuba Compagnie, Kaya Grandi, free entrée

Nov. 14-20—Heart Week. More on page 4.

Sunday, Nov. 15 -1/8 Triathlon to benefit the Heart Fund. Start at Plaza Resort at 15:00. Teams or relay.

Wednesday, Nov.18-Annual Leonid Meteor Showers. 1am-dawn. More on page 19.

Thursday, Nov. 19—Research project on coral reefs. At DCNA, 5pm. More on page 19

Saturday, Nov. 21-Live performance by Dutch Diva Marga Bult with Mega Hit FM DJ's Ben Becker and Ron Gijzen, Cuba Compagnie, Kaya Grandi, 10pm Free entry

Saturday, Nov. 29—Bonaire Animal Shelter Christmas Fair, 10-5. Clothing, food, books, houseware. More on pg. 18

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 ■



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Is Bonaire Ready to Control Plastic Bag Pollution?

LOCAL PROJECT SAYS IT'S AS SIMPLE AS "BRING YOUR OWN BAG"

A local sustainability project is betting that island residents want to tackle plastic bag pollution on Bonaire. And the project, **Boneiru Duradero**, plans to make it as easy as possible.

Single use plastic bags are an increasingly visible source of litter and pollution. "It's so easy to use single-use plastic bags – they're free and plentiful," said Sharon Bol, project coordinator of Boneiru Duradero and board member of Tene Boneiru Limpi and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. **"But it's also pretty easy to find alternatives, and we think Bonaireans are ready."**

Indeed, evidence is mounting that Bonaire may be getting tired of plastic pollution. A Facebook page called "Styrofoam Free Bonaire" has begun posting tips on using reusable containers and bags for takeaway foods and groceries. Created by a local resident in July, the site quickly attracted over 350 members.

But while visual pollution is concerning residents, that's not all that's worrying them. **Plastic bags pose an increasing threat to the health of people and animals, on land and in the sea.**

In a seven-day period in late August, concerned divers posted seven online reports of large amounts of plastic garbage floating in Bonaire's lagoons and near-shore reefs. The divers expressed frustration at the amount of floating plastic and their inability to collect it all.

To combat the plastic debris, some dive operations host both underwater and beach cleanups that attract increasing numbers of divers every year. In the first nine months of this year, volunteers with one dive company, Dive Friends Bonaire, collected over 30 cubic meters of plastic debris. (See Dive Friends Cleanup Dive article on page 7.)

A recent study reported that 90% of seabirds have ingested plastic. Sea turtles, fish, and other marine animals also mistake plastic bags for food, and once swallowed, the bags prevent food uptake, causing starvation. Such losses reduce



Girls at entrance: l to r: Sontee Emers, Julia Sira, Dana Bol

available food for human consumption and can cause declines in water quality and the marine environment that draws tourism to local economies like that of Bonaire.

For humans, the threat may turn out to be as bleak: plastic breaks down in the marine environment into microscopic fragments that accumulate in the bodies of food fish. Human health authorities are investing millions of dollars to study the health threats posed by eating plastic-contaminated food and water.

Boneiru Duradero will encourage vendors and customers at its new Marshe di Playa to "Bring Your Own Bag." The first Marshe di Playa opened Saturday, October

31st at Jong Bonaire. The weekly Saturday market will open from 8am to noon and will offer high-quality, locally-made products, including fresh vegetables, fruit, and herbs, garden plants; jewelry, clothing, and art, and Creole cooking.



Hand made dolls at the Marshe di Playa, 8am-noon, every Saturday at Jong Bonaire

Now Boneiru Duradero and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire have joined forces to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags on Bonaire. Plastic forms a direct threat to Bonaire's sea turtles and other marine life. The collaboration initiative will produce a comparative analysis with the best worldwide practices to reduce plastic. Building awareness on a local level is also important. People on Bonaire have to realize that reducing plastic can be as simple as bringing your own bag whenever you go out to shop. ■ Story by Marlene Robinson/Photos by Laura DeSalvo



Sanny Ensing and her mom, Carley, with Bonaire Aloe Products



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ers trust and more readily believe the *Bonaire Reporter* advertising.

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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.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

ON and IN the WATER

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.

HEALTH

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

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.

LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

Best Cellars has one of the island's widest selection of spirits including "hard-to-find" brands. In addition there is an exceptional assortment of wines, tobacco products and everything needed for a great party.



OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. Drone photography too. ScubaVision, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at www.bonairevisionfilms.com.

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate; since 1989 YOUR agent for the purchase, sale, lease and management of residential and commercial properties!



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

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



SUPERMARKETS

TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Cultimara 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)

Pet of the Week

MEET TEDDY

Teddy is one of our loving older dogs. This handsome sweet guy is very loyal, smart and would make a great companion in a one-pet household.

Are you looking for a life-long friend who is easy going and always happy? Come over and meet Teddy at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or call for information 717-4989. E-mail animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are treated against ticks and fleas are de-wormed, vaccinated and micro chipped. ■ Story & photos by Natalie Peterson



Teddy



ANNUAL ANIMAL SHELTER CHRISTMAS FAIR

29 NOVEMBER 2015 FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM ON KAMINDA LAGUN 26A

Come do your early Christmas shopping with us!!

- ❖ New and 2nd hand clothes, books, house wares
- ❖ Homemade crafts
- ❖ Pet products, collars, leashes, toys and more
- ❖ Bake sale
- ❖ Food and refreshments
- ❖ Entertainment with live music and a Happy hour from 4pm until 5pm



Please visit our fair at The Animal Shelter Bonaire and bring all your friends! All proceeds will benefit the animal shelter. The Animal Shelter Bonaire is a non-profit organization.

Animal Shelter Tips & News

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is a refuge for dogs and cats that can no longer be cared for by their owners, have been abandoned, or were born in the wild and brought in by concerned citizens and tourists.

The Shelter also offers a boarding place for cats and dogs. There is a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter.



Volunteers at the Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market)

The Bonaire Animal Shelter has around 90 animals in care and every day new animals are arriving. We are partially supported by the government of Bonaire and with thanks to contributions from businesses and people such as yourself who appreciate the affection and devotion that these animals provide us, we can keep taking care of them.

However, most of the operating budget depends on our own efforts. The Shelter offers a boarding place for cats and dogs as well as a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter. To help generate extra revenue for our animal protection programs and to provide food and medical care for the animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire our volunteers also run a thrift shop every Saturday at the Pakhus di Pruga and run an Animal Shelter booth during the cruise season.

VOLUNTEERS

We have many amazing, hardworking volunteers who help with the cleaning and feeding duties at the Shelter. There are many different types of animals that all require different attention. We also have volunteers who help us foster animals, maintain the kennels, clean the premises, paint, and many people who help out in any way they can to help the Bonaire Animal Shelter stay open.

We are often asked by island visitors, residents and Bonaire Animal Shelter supporters, "Can I do anything to help?" Sure, you can help and in any number of ways!

Just pass by The Animal Shelter Bonaire on Kaminda Lagun 26a for information, email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com, or call 7174989/7014989. We're on Facebook and Twitter too.

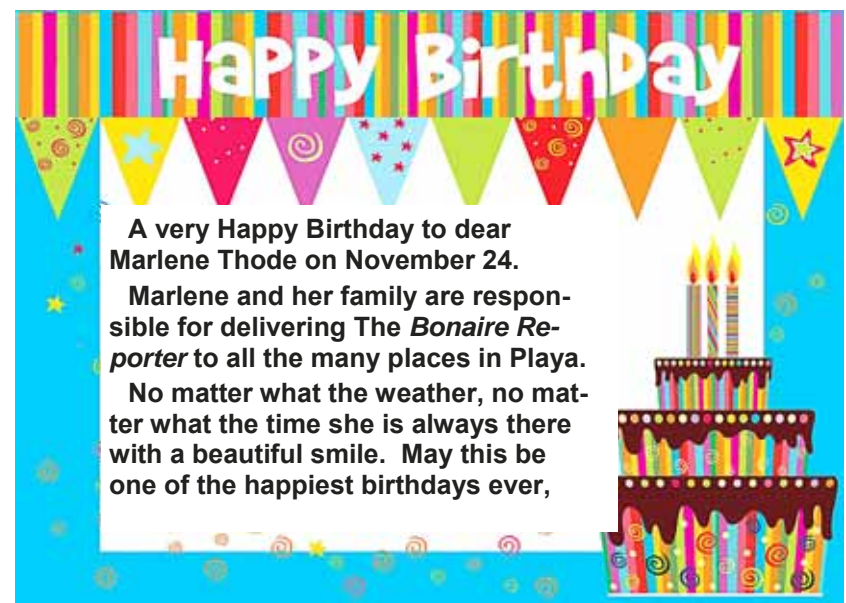
ANNUAL ANIMAL SHELTER CHRISTMAS FAIR

On November 29th we will organize our annual Christmas fair. You are welcome from 10 am to 5 pm on Kaminda Lagun 26a

Come do your early Christmas shopping with us! We sell new and second hand clothes, books, house wares, homemade crafts and lots of pet products like collars, leashes, toys and more. There also will be a bake sale and refreshments. And HAPPY HOUR will start at 4pm until 5pm with entertainment and live music.

Please visit our fair at The Animal Shelter Bonaire and bring all your friends! All proceeds will benefit the animal shelter. The Animal Shelter Bonaire is a non-profit organization.

■ Story & photos by Natalie Peterson



A very Happy Birthday to dear Marlene Thode on November 24.

Marlene and her family are responsible for delivering The Bonaire Reporter to all the many places in Playa.

No matter what the weather, no matter what the time she is always there with a beautiful smile. May this be one of the happiest birthdays ever,



THE STARS HAVE IT November 2015

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Make sure you concentrate if operating machinery or vehicles. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Risks will not be profitable. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful. Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your doubt could lead to insecurity. You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. Children may be on your mind. Talk about your intentions and confirm that you both feel the same way. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will be in the doghouse if you are being stubborn. You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. Don't let your partner get you going. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars. You don't like confrontations at the best of times; however, you may find them difficult to avoid. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. You can find out important information if you listen to friends and relatives. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Don't let your emotions get out of hand. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may find acquaintances being deceptive. Concern yourself with legal matters and for-

mulating contracts rather than finalizing your objectives. You can make life easier for an older member of your family. Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Make plans to do the things you enjoy. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters. You'll feel much better when your slate is clean again. Do what you can but don't jeopardize your health trying to please everyone. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may have a problem with someone you live with if you don't include them in your gathering. Your philanthropic contributions will bring you praise. Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Entertain those who can provide you with valuable information and knowledge. Turn your present relationship around or start a new one. You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can expect the fur to fly on the home front. You are best to tuck your money away where no one will be able to touch it, including yourself. Travel could include delays and other minor problems. You can accomplish a lot. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you can't get ahead in the company you're with, perhaps it's time to move on. You must try to include your mate in your activities this week. You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. Put your money into a safe place that will ensure a profit if you let it sit long enough. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK* *to find it... just look up

"HERE COME THE LEONIDS!"

On Wednesday morning November 18th, from midnight to dawn, we may get to see the annual Leonid Meteor Showers and like the Perseids back in August, the Moon is going to help by staying out of the way. Far from lights on any clear moonless night you're likely to see a few meteors if you stay out long enough and keep looking up.

Meteors have long been called "shooting stars" because that's what they look like. But they're not really stars shooting across the sky.

In fact when you see a meteor you are seeing a tiny speck of space debris, anywhere from the size of a grain of sand to pebble sized, slam into our Earth's atmosphere at such high speeds that the particle's impact with the molecules of air causes these gasses in our Earth's atmosphere to glow kind of like the way a fluorescent light does.

So when you see a "shooting star" you are actually seeing the gas atoms in our Earth's atmosphere glow all along the path that the space debris, the meteor, has traveled. So on any clear, dark, moonless night you can see a handful of meteors, if you have a lot of patience.

But about 12 times a year, we experience what we call a meteor shower. And every November we have the Leonid meteor shower, so named because its meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Leo the lion. Meteor showers are a bit different from the meteors you see every night because the meteors in a meteor shower are predictable and are comet debris.

You see, every time a comet passes through our solar system it sheds some of its debris along its orbit and if the Earth intersects with the comet's path we'll get a meteor shower. Meteor showers are somewhat predictable because the Earth returns to about the same spot in space at the same time each year.

And every November we plow into some of the debris trails of Comet Tempel-Tuttle, a comet which visits the Sun every 33 years. In the years just preceding or following Tempel-Tuttle's passage we pass through denser debris trails and we may experience meteor showers with greater than usual intensity which we call Meteor Storms. The last storm from the Leonids



was in 2002.

You never know when one of these storms may happen, but the best prediction this year for the Bonaire Sky Park is to go out from 1 am through dawn Wednesday the 18th. That's the night of the 17th and morning of the 18th.

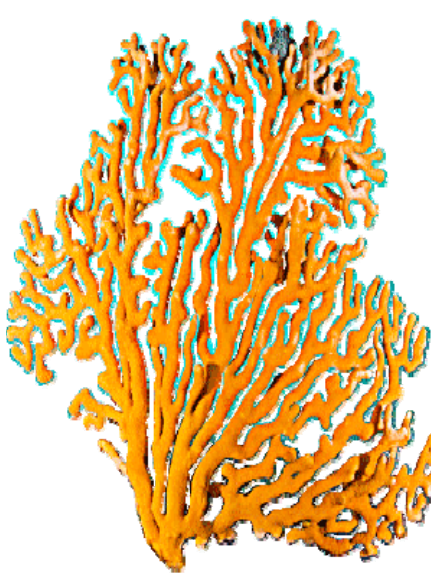
Leo is going to be even easier to find this year, because the planets Venus, Mars and Jupiter will make a nice trail of light pointing directly toward the head of Leo the lion. Venus will be closest to the horizon, Mars will be above Venus and Jupiter will be above Mars.

As the night goes on, the Meteor Radiant will rise higher and higher and the bright star Regulus will be to the west of Jupiter. You may even see a few really bright meteors with long trails! Or maybe not.

And one more thing, the Leonids are the fastest of all meteors because we are hitting them nearly head on. They slam into our Earth's atmosphere traveling at speeds over 158,000 miles per hour.

For those of you who aren't going to stay up all night we have the First Quarter Moon visible in the southwest just after sunset. The Moon will be just above the star Deneb Algedi, which marks the tail of Capricornus the sea goat. Capricornus is just to the east of the teapot in Sagittarius. We don't mention Capricornus often, but legend has it that he was once Pan, the half-man half-goat Greek god of nature. Typhon, the titanic fire god, startled him one day, and in Pan's attempt to turn himself into a fish and escape, he panicked and only his back half became a fish. His front half stayed a goat. Making him, a goat fish...Or a fish goat.

Get outside before dawn on Wednesday the 18th to watch The Meteor Shower and look for Venus, Mars and Jupiter to join the show. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



Bonaire's coral reef is highly valued for diving, but is under threat of degradation. We invite you to participate in a research project which will investigate the link between decline on land and damage to the coral reef by recording the health of the coral reef during your dives. To find out about the project join us at DCNA (opposite City Shop) at 5pm on 19th November

This study is being conducted as part of Michaela Roberts PhD Thesis in the Department of Geography and Sustainable Development of University of St Andrews, with local NGO, Echo.

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