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The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

Bonaire Reporter - Dec. 21, 2015 - Jan. 4, 2016 Year 22, Issue 23



P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

**Happy
Holidays**



Merry Christmas
Kaya Grandi Shopping,
Referendum Results
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Bonaire Government Executive Offices
Laura DeSalvo photo

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



Does it seem there are more oil tankers floating offshore of Bonaire these days? More than a dozen oil tankers are waiting to discharge around ports of "Petróleos de Venezuela" PdVSA including its terminal in Curaçao as ship owners and oil providers refuse to unload cargoes until the state-run firm makes payments, according to sources and vessel tracking data.

Many of the ships have arrived near the ports under a type of prepayment agreement that involves loading cargoes and paying for them just before delivery. Previously, sellers would extend credit to PdVSA. Now, suppliers want cash before delivery because low oil prices have exacerbated the government-owned company's existing cash-flow problems relating to insufficient revenue in hard currency and loan-for-oil agreements.

► **Did you know that the independent Dutch consumer research agency NI-BUD, noted that the cost of living on Bonaire is 19% higher than in the Netherlands (in 2015).**

► If you've recently finished electricity installation and you have not yet asked WEB for the inspection and connection, **you'll have to wait until next year to get it.** WEB and the government division responsible for the inspections announced that the last day for inspections and connections this year was December 8. They will recommence on January 14, 2016. The reason given is the need to avoid too many connections during the coming holidays with the possibility that the pending connections will not be completed before the end of the year.

► The former **City Cafe/Hotel Rochaline** has a "sale pending" sign posted. Sources indicate that the well-known owner of another waterfront night spot is the potential buyer. (*Bula Bonchi*)

► **THE HAGUE--The Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament wants a permanent solution for the limited fi-**

nancial resources that the Dutch National Ombudsman has to work with in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Member of the Second Chamber, Roelof van Laar of the Labour Party PvdA, called it "unacceptable" that the Ombudsman would not be able to fully carry out his tasks in the Caribbean Netherlands due to financial restrictions.

Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen informed Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Ronald Plasterk, late September this year that the 250,000 euros that were allocated for 2015 and 2016 were insufficient. He was left with no choice but to cancel last month's working visit to Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The Ombudsman said he needed at least 350,000 euros per year.

The Minister explained that the Ombudsman received a total annual subsidy of 15 million euros for the entire Netherlands and that for 2015 and 2016 an additional, incidental amount of 250,000 euros had been allocated to cover the Caribbean Netherlands.



► **In October 2015, the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine against cervical cancer was added to the childhood vaccination program on Bonaire.** With the addition of the HPV vaccination the childhood vaccination program is at the same level as the program in the European Netherlands. The HPV vaccine protects girls against cervical cancer later in life. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancers in women.

The HPV vaccine consists of two vaccinations given to girls between 9 and 10 years old. Girls aged 10 to 13 years also get the opportunity to be vaccinated. Youth Health has already sent an invitation and a consent form for vaccination to parents. Youth Health Care workers have in recent weeks vaccinated a large number of children. In May 2016, this group will get the second HPV vaccina-

tion. The HPV vaccine is given simultaneously with DTP (Diphtheria / Tetanus / Polio) and / or the MMR (Mumps / Measles / Rubella) vaccination. Next year, in April 2016, a catch-up campaign carried out giving all girls aged 13 to 15 years the opportunity to be vaccinated. Further notice on that will follow in due time.

If you need more information or have specific questions please contact the Youth Health Department (Dispensary) to Center for Youth and Families telephone number 715-7200

► **InselAir plans to expand its operations to the US once Curaçao gets back its Category 1 status** from the American Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Destinations that the regional airline has in mind are Atlanta, Fort Lauderdale and Boston. It is possible that these new routes will be flown from Aruba if Curaçao does not qualify. The final test for the Category 1 status is probably in March next year.

Last week Insel Air aircraft were plagued by mechanical problems and the consequent flight cancellations resulted in an angry demonstration by disappointed passengers in Curacao's Hato airport. The police had to be called in to restore order.



► **We didn't want to "forget" to write about the new book Governor Rijna received: Grandpa Forgets.** On December 2 the Governor received a book that makes children aware about Alzheimer's disease from The Foundation Alzheimer Bonaire, represented by the President, Evert Piar. Monica Clarinda is the author of the book

The book is aimed at children of primary schools and was written for children from Bonaire and the other islands. The book is written in Papiamentu and Dutch and is

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(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)

available at Addo's Bookstore and Flamingo Bookstore. The Governor was impressed by the quality of the book and thanked the management of the foundation for the good work they perform to make Bonaire society aware of Alzheimer's disease.



►The (so called) "rainy season" has started with **increased probability of breeding sites of mosquitoes** that can transmit diseases. Diseases that can be transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos (photo above-note the stripes) on Bonaire are Dengue and Chikungunya.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is also a vector for the Zika virus, long known in Africa and Indonesia and more recently in Brazil and Colombia. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in a press release reported that there are now as of last week, five cases of Zika virus in the Caribbean region. But NOT on Bonaire and on the neighboring islands.

Dengue has been around for a long time in the Caribbean. In Bonaire a similar, but not as virulent disease,

Chikungunya was first identified in late 2014. In the rainy season in early 2015 the Chikungunya virus infected more than 500 people on Bonaire. They are immune to this infection in the future, however.

The measures to be taken to prevent the spread of the Zika virus are the same measures as for Dengue and Chikungunya. Both Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue are transmitted by one type of mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. These mosquitoes bite during the day, especially in the early morning hours and late afternoon.

Zika is a mild infectious disease. The symptoms resemble those of chikungunya, with fever, rash and joint pain. Usually the symptoms are fairly mild, and usually last no longer than a few days. Up to now, no complications are known and there are no people have died from this virus.

►Newcomers are often surprised that from now through mid-January it is almost impossible to get repairs and construction done on Bonaire. That's because many of the craftsmen who provide such services return to their homes in South America. Even WEB and the government divisions responsible for the inspections of new construction announced that they will not be available but will recommence on January 14, 2016. Their reason is the need to finish pending work before the end of the year.

►Another new "night" spot. A new sign in a window opposite Subway reads: "Blue Sport Bar" and "Billiards." No confirmation that the location is open yet. However, there is another funny little sign on the door that indicates no flip-flops? (Bula Bonchi)



►Downtown shoppers never had it so good as last Saturday night when the shops and the cruise ship market in Wilhelmina Plain were open. People flooded the streets, bands were playing, carolers were singing, a real Santa was there and it even snowed on Kaya Grandi! See more

►The South Pier Mall is starting to attract more and more people with its easy parking and bright new shops. See more below.

►The Barrel Wine Bar at the South Pier Mall officially opened December 18. According to their Facebook page: "You can come to our location at the South Pier Mall between 4 pm and 11 pm to enjoy an amazing selection of wines, small bites, and tapas in a cozy and inviting atmosphere. For reservations please call at 777-7770 or send an email to barrelbonaire@gmail.com"



► Gift-giving time is upon us. And there's a great new shop, **Diamonds Forever**, ready to solve that "what-to-give problem." Prices are super competitive because they have the purchasing power of multiple shops around the Caribbean and cater to the cutthroat cruise ship market. Find them at Bonaire's most pleasant shopping spot, the **South Pier Mall**. You'll be pleasantly surprised at their affordable luxury gift items. ■ Bula Bonchi, G./L.D.

Sabadeco Crown Terrace 123



\$ 798.000 US Dollar

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Total living area: 663m² • house + apartment + studio
Fully furnished • Pool • Stunning ocean views

Sabadeco Crown Shores 3



\$ 797.000 US Dollar

Located in Sabadeco • Lot size: 2119m² • Owned land
Total living area: 620m² • 4 bedrooms / 5 bathrooms
Deeded ocean access • Spacious garden with pool

Sabadeco Crown Shores 68



\$ 640.000 US Dollar

Located in Sabadeco • Lot size: 3572m² • Owned land
Total living area: 360m² • Adjacent building lot 3457m²
Wheelchair friendly • Elevator • Pool

Sabadeco Crown Ridge 34



\$ 598.000 US Dollar

Located in Sabadeco • Lot size: 717m² • Owned land
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Garage • Roof terrace • Swimming pool



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On The Island Since... May 2015 - Shurna van der Heijden-Windster

“I was born on Curacao and I had a very quiet childhood. My parents were both working full-time and my grandmother, who lived with us, took care of my sister and me. I was the elder. My dad worked for the Department of Navigation and Maritime Affairs as a supervisor and my mom worked as a secretary for the Central Bureau of Statistics. I graduated as a social educational worker.

When I was 20 I left for Holland to continue my studies. A year before I went I'd spent the summer vacation with my uncle who lived in Leeuwarden, Friesland, a province in the north of Holland. I went to see what schools and trainings were available, what my possibilities were and also I got a glimpse – like travelling by train – of what it was like to live in Europe. When I actually went the following year, it was very exciting. The only person I knew was my uncle and I had to sort things out mostly by myself and find my way. Nevertheless... it was fun!

My co-students were very social and

But... that same year, in that same class, I met my husband and on July 28, 2014, we got married.” She smiles. “I always find it funny to say that on July 28, 2009, I stepped on the plane in Curacao to fly to Holland and exactly five years later, on that same date, I got married to a real Frisian guy from Leeuwarden... very funny!

Well, in the beginning of this year I saw a vacancy on the internet for a group worker at Fundashon Rosa di Sharon of pastor Ramiro and his wife Tamara. I was still in Holland, but together with my husband we made the decision to come and live here. We told each other, ‘It’s now or never!’ It was a big step, but we took it!

I’d been on Bonaire before, but I must have been like five years old, so that didn’t trigger any memories. My husband had never visited the Antilles – he just followed me, haha! He immediately found it very chill – ciao to the hectic life of commuting by train and bus, just sweet! For me it was simple. I felt at home instantly.

“People are becoming conscious of the problems we are dealing with on Bonaire and not only are they starting to talk about them, but also people are starting to look for help.”

nice people who came from everywhere around the world: Russia, Germany and China and many other countries so I wasn’t the only new kid on the block. I went to obtain my Bachelor’s in Social Work, but when in December 2010 I found my uncle deceased in his house, it was a big blow. In the meantime my sister was also in Holland, studying in Groningen, not far from where I was, but somehow I felt very lonely all of a sudden. It was like I was in shock. My uncle was only 53, so it was completely unexpected. Then, one month later, in January 2011, while crossing the road on foot, I was hit by a car and the impact was so powerful that I was launched and came down on the other side of the road. Miraculously, the only thing I had was a severe concussion and had to spend a month in rehab. However, it wasn’t easy; I suffered frequently from real bad headaches and I couldn’t smell or hear very well anymore. The consequence was that I couldn’t manage at school any longer and I had to quit.

From the moment I’d arrived in Holland in 2009 I’d started working night shifts at Fier Fryslân, an institution for girls and women who were victims of human trafficking, or who had been lured into prostitution by so called ‘lover-boys’ and women who were brutalized and threatened because of what’s called ‘honor-revenge.’ I only worked nights; I had to stay awake, check on the women and be there for them. I worked there for six years.

In 2012 I went back to school, again to try to get my Bachelor’s in Social Work, but then I noticed that it had become un-doable for me. Because of my hearing problem it was too hard to follow lectures and my headaches became unbearable.

Now I’m working full-time and all shifts at Rosa di Sharon and I’m a group leader for girls aged 12 to 18. It’s a Christian institution for girls who cannot live at home for various reasons. With everything we do we ask for the help of God and I like that. It was also the reason why I applied for the job. God is my Everything, and working from that principle is very beautiful and satisfying. The girls who live with us don’t have to be religious, but we do pray with them and also we go to church with them every Sunday. At the moment we have seven girls in the house; that’s about the capacity we can work with.

The difference between the work I did in Holland is that here I work with young girls and we are more family orientated – which is very important - while in Holland I worked with mostly older girls and women, like 30-year-old victims of human trafficking. In Holland everything is more out in the open and people talk about things like the ‘lover-boy’ issues quite frankly, but slowly and surely things are changing here too. People are becoming conscious of the problems we are dealing with on Bonaire and not only are they starting to talk about them, but also people are starting to look for help. Nowadays on Bonaire there is a whole range of different and professional options to go to. The two countries are very different, but in the end my job comes down to the same thing – it’s all about helping people.

When I’m not working, I’m at the Saturday Bonaire Duradero market at Jong Bonaire where I sell my own beauty products. At the market you get an idea of what local people have to offer. The food that’s sold is really delicious and the handmade handbags and jewelry are very



Shurna and her variety of natural beauty products



Shurna and Rik at Green Label

pretty and of good quality. There are many new initiatives, and my own line of natural products is one of them. It all started in Holland when I couldn’t smell well anymore and I was looking for air-fresheners for the house. It appeared to be that my husband was allergic to chemical products and so, via Pinterest, I found some great ideas, but they weren’t mine, they were somebody else’s. I found the person who made the products and I mailed her, saying her products were out of this world because finally I could smell luscious fragrances. She mailed me back saying that if I wanted to start a little business with these products she would be okay with that.

And so what I started in Holland continued on Bonaire where I got even more inspiration for new products. I’m making body scrubs with real fresh fruit and Bonairean sea salt and I developed a sugar scrub with fruit and olive/coconut oil. Also I use turmeric and honey. I make body lotions and shower gels as well – for her and him - and I sell air-fresheners which make your home smell delicious for about three weeks. Then it’s time for a new one! I’m always looking for new inspiration and trying things out, but I insist on keeping it natural.

When I’m working on my products I feel very peaceful; it’s me-time, this is really for Shurna! Of course I always test my products, first on myself and then on my

husband who is ever so sweet! I also have a Facebook page Shushu’s Divine Products where everyone can find more information and where people can contact me.

Well, in Holland my husband was training as a landscaper, but he couldn’t find an internship. Here he found one at Green Label and now he can finish his education.

Our plan is to stay on Bonaire for a long time. I still have my parents and my grandmother on Curacao, and in the meantime my sister graduated and she’s back too. I have a wonderful relationship with my family and they miss me but from here it’s very easy to go visit so our next vacation will be on Curacao.

I love it here; I think there are plenty of opportunities on Bonaire to grow, but we have to grab them. I like that the island is small and that you can go anywhere in no time. I also like that we have good connections to go to the States, Holland and Curacao.

You know, in Holland we had everything. We both had jobs, we had a house and a car. We were all set and yet we made the decision to start a new life together and we came here and I’m so glad because we’re as happy as can be.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Bethlehem, PA, USA

Irwin and Jacqui Spector, visitors to Bonaire for more than 30 years, in front of the old blast furnaces at the former Bethlehem Steel plant in Bethlehem, PA on April 22, 2015.

The Bethlehem Steel plant was in operation for nearly a century producing almost 3,000 tons of iron per day. Most of the iron was used in steel-making that was used to build the country's skyscrapers, bridges and ships for the U.S. Navy.

A few years after the plant closed in 1995, instead of demolishing the historic facility it was turned into an arts and cultural center now called ArtsQuest Center at Steel Stacks. Irwin, who was exhibiting his wood carving work, and Jacqui were attending the Polka for Parkinsons event, which was being held there. ■



Photo by Alan Zale

Picture Yourself With The Reporter Easter Island (Chile)



Della Edrington is shown in this photo on Easter Island holding the November 2014 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*. This issue included a picture of Della and her husband when they participated in the event "Diving for Debris". They were looking forward to returning to Bonaire in October 2015 in time for the next clean-up dive.

Della and Patrick were honored on their last visit to Bonaire as "Ambassadors of Bonaire" by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire. ■

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. ■



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CRIMINAL DISAPPOINTMENT

Dear Editor:

The letter to the editor from Sad Brian was indeed sad. Actually if completely true it goes beyond sad to a realm of completely ridiculous. Robberies, break-ins, car thefts, burglaries all over the island and how many special police were needed to check a permit?

To add to Brian's sadness, we were all told that more police would be coming to Bonaire. They came. We were told this would lessen crime. It did not. Remember when the newspaper told us the new prosecutor was going to clamp down on crime and get tough? That certainly did not happen.

So how does Bonaire stand on crime? The victims blame the street police for being useless. The street police blame the detectives for being incompetent. The detectives blame the prosecutor for being too weak. The prosecutor blames the detectives for not doing a good job. The police force in general blames the victims for being "stupid." Sad that no

one blames the criminal.

My sad question is if a huge majority of crime happens at night why does a huge majority of the police work in the day? Anyone ever hear of Pro Active Policing?

Also Sad (and angry and frustrated and fed-up and... and... and...)

BONAIRE ROBBERIES AND POLICE

Dear Editor:

After a recent scuba diving vacation to Bonaire I have to write this letter with my opinion of recent changes on Bonaire. We have been coming to Bonaire at least once a year for the past 6 years staying 2-3 weeks. Over this time period we have heard of more criminal activities with items stolen from trucks at dive sites and more robberies. Our last trip to Bonaire allowed us to experience the criminal activity first hand. We went to supper on Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm locking the house where we were staying. When we returned approximately 9 pm upon unlocking the front door we were met with a house that looked like a hurricane had struck it. All the drawers were open and over \$8000 worth of televisions, computers and cameras were missing. More important to me was that the robber had stolen a bag of insulin pump supplies.

According to the police we should not have brought the stolen items to the island to tempt someone to steal them. We locked



the house and the robber broke into the house. The owner of the house had to prod the policemen to even go into the house to look around. Do they not care how someone is breaking into a house? The policeman also suggested that we should keep anything of value with us at all times. I can just see scuba divers taking all their valuables on their dives. In talking with people on Bonaire after this event occurred I found out that this is common event. One resident told me she had been robbed four times.

I had to spend the day seeing a doctor to get a prescription for insulin needles and then going to different pharmacies to find the needles. The bag of insulin pump supplies that was stolen contained a glucometer which is paired to my insulin pump to communicate blood sugar values, extra glucometer strips, replacement setups for my insulin pump to deliver insulin and sensor setups which actually measure blood glucose continuously sending information to my pump. No replacements were available on Bonaire and it would have taken at least a week to get replacements. Luckily I had changed my setup the morning prior to robbery and did not need to change for a couple of days. This allowed me time to return home where I have more supplies.

The police in Bonaire need to put more effort into preventing such robberies. There has to be a market for the items stolen or the robber would not be stealing them. The police need to investigate where stolen items are going, stopping the market. I am sure that the robber did not sell the insulin pump supplies because they would have no value to him. He probably threw them in the trash but by stealing them he could have killed me by sending my into a diabetic coma. Thanks.

S.C. Diver and Diabetic

Bonaire's First Sail Loft



A sail loft is not only what every sailor loving or visiting Bonaire needs, but it's a boon for landlubbers who need marine-quality upholstery. And thanks to Eunan and Suuz, fugitives from Bonaire's dive industry, we now have one.

Suuz Zelders and Eunan Doherty have relocated their modest canvas shop, the **Phish Phactory**, to the Navegante Boatyard, next to the WEB water plant, and expanded it with huge work tables and sewing machines. Besides sails, they specialize in recycling and reusing canvas and sailcloth for other uses like handbags and convertible car tops. Contact them at Phishphactory@gmail.com ■ G.D.

MCB Community Awards



MCB Bonaire awarded annual merit prizes for volunteer service to the island's community in a press presentation at the Summer Dreams Ocean Club on Thursday, December 10. Honored were **Sport Vereniging Real Rincon (Royal Rincon Sports Association)**, **FORMA (the Adult and Continuing Education Foundation)** and the **Bonaire Tafeltennis Bond (Bonaire Table Tennis Union)**. In the photo are representatives of the associations. ■G.D.

The Awards Night is also an opportunity for MCB to entertain Bonaire's press corps. At right MCB Bonaire Managing Director Leonard Domicasse announces the recipients' names before the ranks of TV cameras and photographers. →→→



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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

A new Reporter Column



ON LEARNING PATIENCE:

RELAX, IT'S BONAIRE

*I'm in a hurry to get things done
Oh I rush and rush until life's no fun
All I really gotta do is live and die
But I'm in a hurry and don't know why.*
(Alabama song)

I celebrated my 50th birthday on Bonaire last month. It was my first real adult birthday; I realized for the first time in my life that I didn't crave presents. Instead, I welcomed new insights. Probably the most important one is an appreciation of my tendency towards impatience.

Just the other day, I had to brake on



Photo: Karen B. Gilmour

Donkey Crossing sign



Photo: Elisabeth van Winsen-Sanders

There are no signs for goat crossings but if there were you'd see "overstekende geiten"

Kaya International for a family of *overstekende geiten* (crossing goats), to be distinguished from "*Overstekende Ezels*" (donkey crossings, prominently announced on Bonaire's unique highway signs). This one must have been an extended family, including aunts, uncles, stepmothers, etc., etc., because the line was long. Dad, sporting a long, scruffy beard and scary looking horns, superintended the procession from the rear, keeping the little ones in check by an occasional low-register bleat and threatening gestures of the horns.

After about four minutes of watching this carnival of animal antics, I continued on my way to a pre-scheduled job interview. I was going to be a few minutes late, but no biggie. This is Bonaire!

Driving through Kaya Grandi, I was faced with another impasse. The driver of the vehicle in front of me thought it was a prima idea to chat then and there with a pedestrian friend. Honking usually doesn't work, so what did I do? I honked. And waited five more minutes while several passers-by "*bon tardied*" me. I appreciate the fact, by the way, that people here are so friendly all the time, even during trying times.

Fortunately, the interview took place in Playa (Kralendijk in local parlance) itself. I was already 10 minutes late, but the receptionist told me to wait. The interviewer had yet to arrive. After an hour of doodling on my iPad, I called my supposed interviewer. Surprised: "What interview?" he asked. "Next week would be more convenient. *Ayo*."

Next up on my agenda today was arranging our telephone landline installation. After having paid earlier, my question was simply, when will the workers actually be able to install our phone. "Don't know." "Well, I hope it'll be sometime during the next year or so," I joke.

"Maybe." "I'm sure it'll be in sometime in the next 10 years" I continue to quip. "Maybe" and "*Ayo*." (You gotta love that word, "*Ayo*," possibly a local variant of Adios, but sounds friendlier.)

From there I wandered over to the cell phone store to buy a new phone for my hubby. It was pushing three o'clock, and I hoped the store wouldn't be too crowded. I was in luck. As the last client left, I entered.

The sales person waved at me (I thought) and at a sign behind me. I waved back. What a nice person. She kept smiling and flapping her hand. I really liked this version of "*bon tardi*," and we both continued to flap around. Oh wait, she wanted to close the door (pointing again to the sign), because there's a Christmas

party on the 11th of December – all afternoon. That makes sense. I love parties!

I cruised on home afterwards, while I managed to have a good chuckle about it all. Also, I bought a 1.5 liter bottle of red wine for our happy hour -- to continue the humor. Continuing home, I thought about a story a friend of mine told me recently. After he moved to Bonaire from the Netherlands, he bought a set of decent-looking dining room chairs for his new apartment. Later he noticed that one of them seemed rather wobbly and therefore not really fit for use. He returned to the store to exchange the rocky chair for an un-wobbly one. The owner took a look, had a seat on it himself, and said, *Effe wennen!* (in Dutch, "Just get used to it!"). "And by the way, this was the last chair I had." Dushi Bonaire is *effe wennen*, but it's worth it.

When I came home, happy but exhausted from my one-errand accomplished (the wine bottle) day, I encoun-

tered hubby in waiting mode by the door. He was still hoping for the handyman to show up; he was supposed to have made an appearance at eight that morning.

It was now 6 pm. I took my exasperated husband by the hand, led him to our terrace, and I poured him some vino.

At 7 pm. sharp, though, our sink fixer-upper appeared at the door. After a quick survey of the damaged area he told us, in Spanish, that he didn't have the parts, and darn, the stores would be *cerrado* (closed) now anyway. So he'd be back next week sometime.

We vacantly nodded our assent, our third glasses of wine bobbing happily in our hands. Why hurry, this is Bonaire! "All I really gotta do is live and die."

■ Karen Bastiaansen-Gilmour



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Spirits of Rincon



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The Artisan Cadushy Distillery produces a prodigious number of different spirits, including the famous Cadushy of Bonaire Liqueur, Captain Don's Whiskey and Cactus Vodka. Their rum, Rom Rincon, is spiced in the classic Caribbean tradition. This smooth and full-bodied rum is spiced with Bonairean wild basil (*yerba di hole*). It is produced in small batches by the Master Distiller and aged in French oak barrels to create a rum worthy of the name of The Capital of Bonaire, 'Rom Rincon'.

Since the start of the production the Master Distiller of the Cadushy Distillery, Eric Gietman, sets aside a few barrels of rum to create a Private Stock of Rom Rincon. Aged in small barrels with extra care these rums evolve to "stars from heaven" where you taste the most delicate notes. It's produced in limited quantity in numbered bottles and on request signed by the Master Distiller. Only available at The Cadushy Distillery in Rincon. The perfect Christmas gift. This is Rum drinkers Paradise!

The Cadushy Distillery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am till 5 pm. Also open on Boxing day (December 26). Check www.Cadushy.com for more info or call 786-8769. ■ Press release

Bonbini (Welcome) to Kas Rincon.



You might think of it as a Bed and Breakfast without breakfast. On your next visit to Bonaire, steep yourself in the authentic culture of Bonaire by staying in Rincon. About 18 kilometers from Kralendijk Rincon is the tranquil, cultural village where the vacation house, "Kas Rincon," is located. The address is Kaya Komkomber # 5 (#5 Cucumber Street). It offers a house for three to five persons, with three bedrooms (one is air conditioned, two bedrooms have fans), one bathroom and a kitchen. It has verandas on the north, east and south sides and a garden.

Rincon is the oldest village on Bonaire, founded by the Spanish in 1527. It's surrounded by nature and will be 500 years old in just 12 more years, making it one of the oldest continuously occupied settlements in the Dutch Caribbean.

If you'd like to be part of the Rincon community and experience the life style of locals during your stay on Bonaire, then this is the place to be. Welcome to Rincon, the heart of Bonaire. For more information call +599 7967870 or Email: rincocity@gmail.com. ■ Press release, Maria Koeks

All of Us At The Bonaire Reporter Wish Our Readers and Advertisers Happy Hollidays and Great New Year



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CMBB Holiday Concert



Patricia Bergwijn photos

The Classical Music Board Bonaire presented a super festive holiday concert on Friday, December 11, at Plaza Resort.

The recently organized (September 2014) and very enthusiastic "Popkoor Bonaire" led off with nine Christmas songs, sung with great gusto, gaiety and rhythm. The choir, led by conductor Renske van Slooten, is made up of ladies and gentlemen, all ages, different nationalities with one common thread: they love to sing (and they have marvelous voices and harmony!) **Gerty Koffijberg** organized the group and is now chairperson. We can't wait to hear them again.

The choir was followed by the main act of three musicians who have made their marks in international concert halls. **Pepe Gonzalez**, a famous classical guitarist from Argentina, has a huge repertoire of South American guitar music. **Juan Tromp** is a professional guitarist from Aruba, an excellent soloist and accompanist. The diva of the evening was Aruban soprano, **Tica Giel**, soloist who has sung with many celebrities. Check out Classical Music Board Bonaire website for news. ■ L.D.



Singer Tica Giel

←←←
Guitarists
Juan Tromp
and Pepe
Gonzalez

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Jan Art Shop was gorgeous

Bonaire's People Have Spoken Referendum 2015



Nr.	Stemburo	Polling Place	Totaal	A vota	Bálido	SI	No	Blanku	No Bálido
1	Jeugdhuis "Jong Bonaire"		1,449	818	807	384	423	6	5
2	Sentro di Bario Tera Cora		2,353	1,410	1,388	612	776	9	12
3	Kolegio Kristo Bon Wardador		1,554	946	916	260	656	1	29
4	Sentro di Bario Nikiboko		1,437	919	909	252	657	5	5
5	Sentro di Bario Entrejol		1,095	634	626	177	449	3	5
6	Sentro di Bario Amboina		1,124	650	644	208	436	2	4
7	Kompleho Deportivo		919	542	533	170	363	6	3
8	Sentro di Bario Nort Salinja		1,311	890	880	416	464	6	4
9	Sentro di Bario Rincon		868	613	611	104	507	2	
10	Tia Sani		551	377	375	66	309	2	
Totaal			12,661	7,799	7,689	2,649	5,040	42	67

Results at press time 19 December, 2015 61.6% 98.6% 34.5% 65.5% 0.5% 0.9%

By a margin of almost two to one Bonaire voters expressed their dissatisfaction with the governing arrangement made with the Netherlands made on 10-10-10. The non-binding vote questioned their 2004 Referendum choice of the ambiguous choice of "Direct Ties With The Netherlands." Over 60% of the eligible voters cast their ballot. Check the table above for detailed statistics.

The "Watermelon" (green and red parties) PDB/UPB coalition supported the No option, but Commissioner Clark Abraham

stipulated earlier that this referendum was a "consultation" with the people and not an exercise in choice of government.

It is expected that the island government, the OLB, with this mandate in hand will enter into talks with Holland about adjustments to the existing arrangements as promised in the Spies Report, as well as modifications to the Public Entity structure. It is probable that another, but binding, referendum will be held next year.

People could only vote at the polling

stations indicated on their voting cards, a change from the usual "at large" method of past years. This confused some voters.

Nort Salinja and Jong Bonaire polling stations polled the largest proportion of Yes votes, but not enough to overcome the No votes there. In Rincon there were five times as many No votes as Yes.

In the Netherlands early reactions were not slow in coming and were mostly favoring the severing of Bonaire from Dutch influence. ■ G.D.

Lidia Maria Frans-Soliano Passes



A Great Lady, loved by all who met her: Born on March 27, 1933, Lidia Maria Frans-Soliano passed away in Bonaire on December 5, 2015. She leaves behind her husband, Egidio "Buchi" Frans, nine living children (one deceased) and 16 grandchildren. Her nickname was Lidia di Buchi. Below is the wedding photo of Lidia and Buchi in 1958. The couple has been well known and respected for many years. ■ L.D.



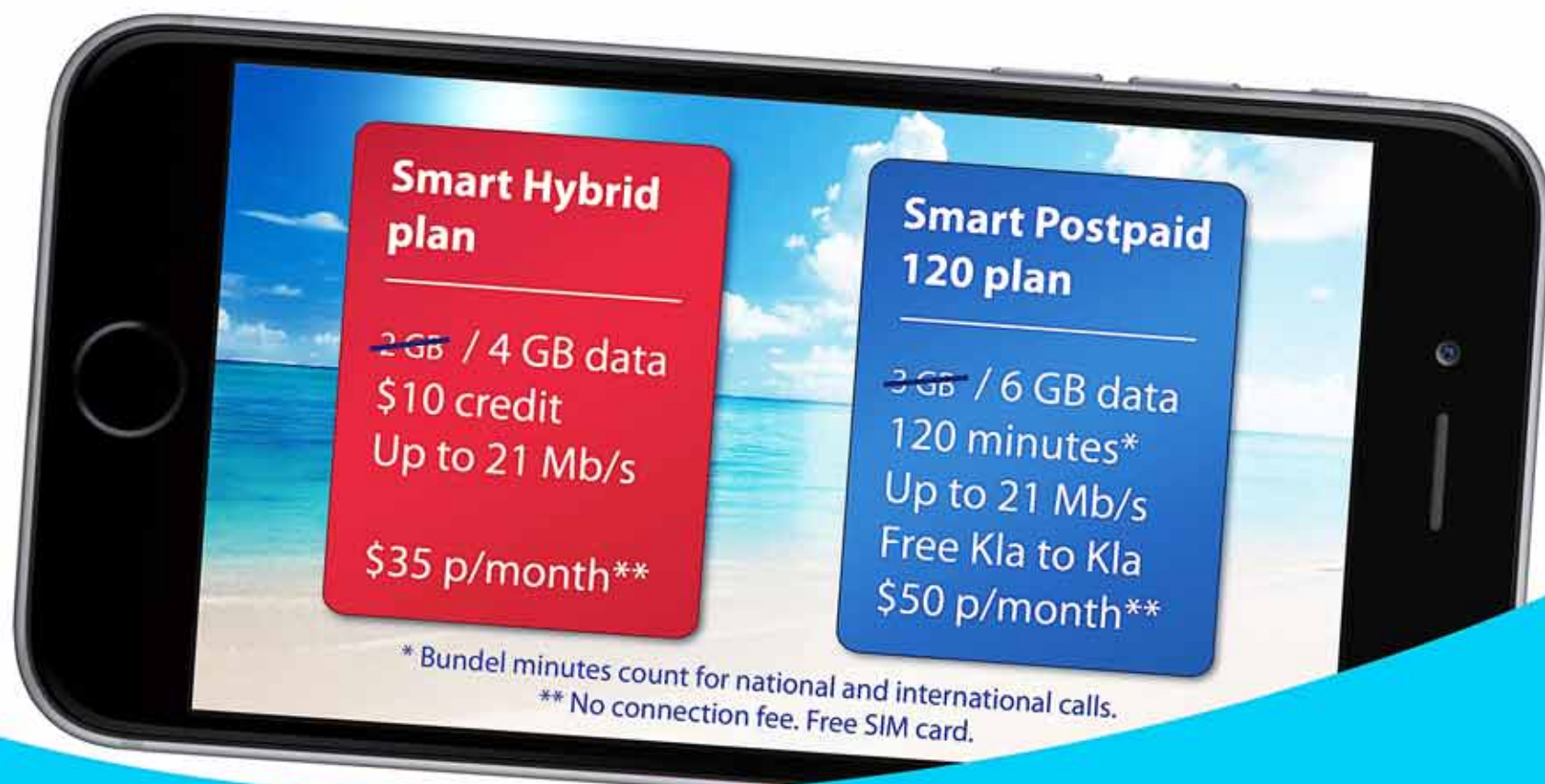
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Bari Festival

Izaïn Mercera photo

To celebrate the Bari Festival (*Pon'è Bari Ronka 2015*) SKAL, the history and cultural organization, together with Mangazina de Rei put on a performance last Saturday at Magazina di Rei, dedicated to the memory of Grand Maestro Pedro Conch Mercera. Rijksvertegenwoordiger Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabela (left) joined with the Culture Department's Felix "Papito" Thomas to open the night's event featuring the young drummers.



Ellen Muller photo

Celebrating Jerry

They came from far and wide, friends and family of the late Jerry Ligon, to pay their respects. The noted biologist-naturalist-diver-guide passed away on September 9. But because so many of his off island friends and fans wanted to have an opportunity to come together to share stories about him, a barbeque and potluck was organized by Glory Moore at Sand Dollar on December 14. This gave people the opportunity to make travel arrangements for a journey to Bonaire. It was an amazing gathering—more like a big family coming together to meet each other, some for the first time, to talk about someone they all loved, admired and missed so much. Jerry's children, Tara and Chris, were there as were his grandchildren, Courtney and Alexa. The Cactus Blue truck provided delicious, abundant free hamburgers and beer.

As Bas Noij said, "With a laugh and a tear we celebrated the life of Jerry C. Ligon. It felt like one big family." ■ Laura DeSalvo— photo at left

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 21		02:36 -0.13 ft	09:18 1.10 ft	17:25 0.01 ft	21:19 0.26 ft	6:51	18:16
Tue 22		03:11 -0.08 ft	10:04 1.16 ft	18:33 -0.07 ft	22:37 0.19 ft	6:51	18:16
Wed 23		03:49 -0.03 ft	10:53 1.19 ft	19:37 -0.14 ft		6:52	18:17
Thu 24	00:05 0.15 ft	04:28 0.04 ft	11:43 1.17 ft	20:37 -0.19 ft		6:52	18:17
Fri 25	01:42 0.16 ft	05:12 0.11 ft	12:34 1.13 ft	21:31 -0.22 ft	Full Moon	6:53	18:18
Sat 26	03:17 0.21 ft	06:07 0.19 ft	13:26 1.07 ft	22:20 -0.24 ft		6:53	18:18
Sun 27	04:32 0.29 ft	07:23 0.27 ft	14:17 0.98 ft	23:03 -0.23 ft		6:54	18:19
Mon 28	05:22 0.37 ft	08:55 0.33 ft	15:07 0.89 ft	23:41 -0.22 ft		6:54	18:19
Tue 29	06:01 0.45 ft	10:26 0.35 ft	15:55 0.79 ft			6:55	18:20
Wed 30		00:14 -0.19 ft	06:35 0.53 ft	11:50 0.35 ft	16:41 0.68 ft	6:55	18:20
Thu 31		00:43 -0.16 ft	07:05 0.61 ft	13:05 0.33 ft	17:25 0.58 ft	6:56	18:21
Fri 01		01:12 -0.13 ft	07:37 0.67 ft	14:09 0.29 ft	18:09 0.50 ft	6:56	18:22
Sat 02		01:34 -0.09 ft	08:05 0.73 ft	15:13 0.24 ft	18:54 0.41 ft	6:56	18:22
Sun 03		01:54 -0.05 ft	08:33 0.79 ft	16:14 0.18 ft	19:40 0.32 ft	6:57	18:23
Mon 04		02:12 -0.02 ft	09:02 0.85 ft	17:14 0.12 ft	20:30 0.23 ft	6:57	18:23

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This is the 139th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n (always wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels". Up to at least 200 articles!



Ike van Uningen and his sleek metallic blue Chevrolet El Camino

Bonabista/Bonaire –
It must have been in the late 70s of the last century that I saw the first Chevrolet El Camino in my humble life. Those days I rode my high compression BSA A65 Lightning, an old fashioned and tough British 650 parallel twin with push rods, from Eugene, Oregon, to Fire Island, New York. Way back in history for me the United States of America was like a movie in real life.

Apart from some old V-8 engine powered stock cars and some vehicles used for funerals I had never in my entire life seen an American car in reality. So, every now and then, I bought a six-pack and took position under a tree in the grass that divided the two roads of a dual carriage way in Eugene. There were gas guzzling V-8s all over the place, limousines, step vans, pick-ups. And, quite rarely, there was the El Camino, a sleek, aggressive looking, lean, mean, low and fast cross-over of the American idea of a sports car and an every-day workhorse...

The first time I wrote an article about a Chevrolet El Camino was in 2007. It was Henk Schippers who attracted my attention by driving his red El Camino with two big white stripes from the hood to the rear. Henk fell in love with his El Camino, spent a fortune on it, broke the speedometer cable during testing the top speed of his high power output V-8, brought it to Bonaire. Henk had his El Camino for years and years. But time goes by and we grow older as all mortal creatures do....

Then, after years, in 2014, another El Camino popped up. I spotted the vehicle and followed it. Finally the driver parked it in Bonabista, a new neighborhood on the windward side of the road to Rincon. I stopped my Puma-powered Land-Rover and introduced myself. We shook hands. Ike van Uningen, proud owner of a metallic blue Chevrolet El Camino. Sunglasses, a straw hat, a NYPD T-shirt. The Chevrolet: metallic blue with a carbon structure wrapping on the hood and the tailgate in the back. This second El Camino on Bonaire appeared to be built in 1986. The sleek monster came all the way from Mexico to California to The Netherlands to Bonaire. Ike is a regular visitor to our tropical island. He visited Bonaire some 20 years ago for the first time. He is

busy building a house in Bonabista and he imported his beloved Camino in 2013. Ike says, "I really love my El Camino. In my opinion the car is a very good looking mean and sleek workhorse. She is fast, comfortable and handy, especially when you work in construction. The five-liter engine is very powerful, revving is low, torque is immense. Everything on this car is powered: power steering, power brakes, you name it. Only the windows I have to roll down and up by hand. I really like American cars because of their appeal. In history I had a GMC truck with side steps. Vehicles like that are almost unknown in Europe where they have smaller cars to cover shorter distances. Once you have been in the States you realize why there is no substitute for cubic inches!"

Ike opens the hood. The engine bay is filled with metal. A huge carburetor supplies the liquid. He opens the doors of his two seater. There is a lot of chrome and luxury in the car. Comfortable seats, automatic gearbox, air conditioning. He likes the 10-spoke light alloy two-tone wheels. Five nuts connect each wheel to the car. Wide 255/45/R18 rubbers are mounted. This time the El Camino has a day off from work. Today the rear bed does not have to carry and transport building materials. (Ike informs me about the air suspension in the rear and the valve next to the lid of the gas tank. The rear suspension can be assisted by rubber balloons filled with air to adjust the level of the car to the load of the vehicle. Smart idea!)

Then he turns the key of the ignition of his full metal American dream. "Gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh." Yes, this is a real V-8. Ike changes the box from "park" to "drive" and slowly the couple drives away in a southern direction, towing a trailer with a boat. More fun is waiting behind the horizon... ■ *Story & Photo by Jan Brouwer*



(The first Chevrolet El Camino was produced in the States for the 1959 model year of Chevrolet in response to the success of the rival Ford Ranchero. This first generation El Camino was based on the Chevrolet Impala.)

A Garden? Just Do It

BONAIRE CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Everybody is running around to prepare for this famous universally celebrated day—Christmas. In this article I'd like to share some popular Bonairean Christmas recipes. If you don't know yet what to cook for Christmas maybe these recipes might help you decide! Hmm!

Take it easy. These recipes can never

get ruined, whatever taste comes out. Somehow they're always a great delicious success. Well, will this be your most successful dinner of the year?

Merry Christmas to you all. Have a peaceful wonderful Christmas together with all your loved ones. ■
Angliet, Nature lover,



Kabrito Stoba (Goat Stew).

Ingredients for 2 kg goat stoba:

Lime or lemon juice, salt, olive oil, vinegar, meat bouillon cube, 1/4 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon curry powder, 1/2 teaspoon marjoram, some dry celery, 1 teaspoon piccalilli, 4 teaspoons ketjap asin, onion, 250 gr mushrooms, 1 green pepper, 1 tomato, garlic, 1 Spanish pepper, 2 soupspoons tomato puree and about 250 ml water.

Preparation: One day before: marinate the goat meat with vinegar and lime or lemon juice. Combine it with all the spices, except onion ketjap, celery, tomato and bullion.

The next day: chop onion finely and fry in a big pot. Add the marinated meat, fry it all, then add water, bouillon, green pepper and celery. Let it simmer on a low flame for about 2 hours. Add water if it gets dry. Taste for flavor.

Chukulati Pinda (Warm Chocolate Peanut Drink)

Ingredients:

100gr pure chocolate, 3 tablespoons peanut butter, half tablespoon cinnamon, drop vanilla essence, 750ml milk.

Optional: marshmallows and mint leaf on top to decorate.

Preparation:

Break chocolate into pieces, put in a pan with peanut butter and let melt softly. Stir all and add cinnamon and vanilla essence. Keep stirring and at the end add milk and keep stirring until it's hot and melted. Serve hot with marshmallow and mint leaf.

Add a Salad

Make a nice salad from sliced avocados, cooked potatoes, cucumber, tomatoes, green pepper, sweet corn, some olives, lemon juice, salt and pepper.

You may add sliced cooked chicken and/or sliced hardboiled eggs. Add chives and parsley.



More favorites

Fish Soup

Ingredients: Vermicelli, home-made fish bouillon from fish parts with laurel leaves, garlic, onion, salt and pepper and/or fish bouillon cube, whole corn.

Preparation: Add to fish bouillon: whole corn cut into smaller pieces, carrot, celery, chives, drops of lemon juice and a whole green pepper. Cook together. At the end add roughly chopped fresh celery.

Arros Bruha (Stewed Rice)

Ingredients: 1 cup of black beans from can or home cooked (save cooking water), olive oil, onion, garlic, laurel leaves, tomato paste, 1 cup uncooked rice, cilantro from the garden, salt, paprika.

Preparation: Fry onion, garlic, pepper until soft. Add tomato paste and black beans with water. Add more water if necessary. Add salt and black pepper. Let simmer, covered, until done. Can be cooked in a rice cooker. Add cilantro at the end. ■

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 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

• **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

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

• **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

#	DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAPACITY
Cruise Ship Schedule					
43	Wednesday	23-12-15	<i>Oosterdam</i>	0800-1800	2388
44	Wednesday	23-12-15	<i>Carnival Sunshine</i>	0800-1600	2974
45	Thursday	24-12-15	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700-1700	3200
46	Thursday	24-12-15	<i>Eclipse</i>	0800-1700	2858
47	Saturday	26-12-15	<i>Royal Princess</i>	1200-1900	3600
48	Tuesday	29-12-15	<i>Minerva</i>	0630-1300	688
49	Wednesday	30-12-15	<i>Aida Diva</i>	0800-1800	2194
43	Wednesday	23-12-15	<i>Oosterdam</i>	0800-1800	2388

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 Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes 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 Farm Tour—9am.** See **Monday for more information.**

• **12-step meeting (AA/NA).** Every **Wednesday at Gogreen/Bonaire Basics**, Kaya Korona #47. Walk in from 18:45, starts at 19:15, ends at 20:30. Feel free to mail 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com or stappenbonaire@gmail.com 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 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

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 Crutita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Going on Now—Art exhibit "Klabu Ku Hito" by Francisco Uty Melaan, at TCB office.

Tuesday, Dec. 22— Winter Solstice -shortest day of the year

Thursday, December 24— Christmas Eve. Most shops and government offices close at 12 noon

Friday, Dec. 25—Christmas Holiday

Saturday, Dec. 26

—**Boxing Day**, banks and many shops closed

—**Moonlight Walk/Hike** sponsored by STINAPA \$10 (Facebook: Bonaire.Stinapa)

Sunday, Dec. 27— **End of the Year Mountain Bike Fun Race** to the north. Two distances: to Karpata or Rincon and back. Start Coco Beach 3:30pm. End at Coco Beach for drinks and snacks. \$10. More information call Frank at 717-8545 or freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com

Friday Dec. 31— **New Years Eve** Most shops and government offices close at 12 noon. **Fireworks!! Protect your pets.** See page 18.

Saturday, January 1, 2016— **New Years Day - Holiday**

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.

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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AIRLINES

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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. Find them on Facebook.

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.**

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

Telbo, Bonaire's pioneer phone company offers the fastest data and voice communication on Bonaire. Sign up and get a variety of special offers. See ad on page 10



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. Ad on page 11.

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 Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

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. See pg. 2

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. See the back page



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. See page 19

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.

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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. Ad on back page



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. See page 18

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 18.

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. See page 11



SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable. See page 16.

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. See page 19



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?** See ad on page 5



SUPERMARKETS

TOP Supermarket— Conveniently located downtown at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. See page 2.



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) See pg. 15

Pet of the Week Animal Shelter Tips & News

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

The Animal Shelter's oldest and longest residing feline, Ulysses, finally has a forever home....just in time for Christmas! Ulysses first arrived at the Shelter in September of 2012. He was already about 3 or 4 years old, a real "tomcat"....thin, not sterilized and missing a piece of his ear from an old injury.

After sterilization, good health care and good food, Ulysses blossomed. Despite his gruff appearance, he was a sweet, loving and gentle cat. Over the years, he became the "godfather" of the cat compound, greeting all the new arrivals warmly and making sure order was maintained among the residents. Ulysses loves his name, and when you greet him in the morning with "Hello, Ulysses!" he always answers back...and continues to talk with you until he gets his morning "rubs" and "head butts."

Although he was the favorite of all the volunteers, staff, and feline residents, Ulysses never found his forever home. Perhaps the mangled ear, his bald spots from healed wounds, and the fact that he is the proverbial (but truly erroneous) "unlucky black cat," prevented potential guardians from seeing his big and loving personality. But Ulysses' luck changed this week when a wonderful woman, with a heart as big as his, chose him to share a forever home with her.



L. DeSalvo photo

Ulysses

Ulysses' new cat guardian had recently suffered the loss of her 17-year-old feline companion. The emptiness left behind required filling and she came to the Shelter to meet another cat that had been recommended to her as a perfect fit to be an indoor, "lap cat." But fate (or Ulysses himself!) intervened. When she sat down to check out the suggested companion, Ulysses immediately made his way onto her lap and it was love at first sight! After nearly an hour of just sitting together and sharing love there was no question that Ulysses had finally found his forever home.

The joy of knowing that after three long years this very special cat has found his soul mate will more than compensate for how much he will be missed by his loyal staff and his feline roommates. Merry Christmas, Ulysses...It's a wonderful life (finally)!com ■

Jane Madden-Disko



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.

Bonaire Animal Shelter's Christmas Poem

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the Shelter not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung with care, in hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The dogs and cats were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of treats danced in their heads. When out at the gate there arose such a clatter, they sprang from their beds to see what was the matter.



Vito

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, we knew in a moment it must be St Nick. But no, it was VITO, he was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, and his fur was all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his neck, and he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a berry! His enormous big mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

He was skinny and bony, a right jolly old dog, and we laughed when we saw him, in spite of ourselves! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, soon gave us to know we had nothing to dread.

T'was VITO looking for Shelter and a new best friend. Merry Christmas to all and a good Happy end!

■ Poem & Photo by Nathalie Peterson



THE PET PROJECT 2015

Benefits Animal Shelter and Your Pet

Happy New Year's celebration is coming. We'll be so festive when we ring in the year with fireworks., but our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period unfortunately sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. However, help is available in an inexpensive, non toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets. Yes! This is safe for people as well as pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year, thanks to The Pet Project and Ella van Oostrom.



Follow simple instructions on the label. The price of \$3 benefits the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen.

Just 4 Pet also has it. Look for the shop on Kaya Industria, across from Rocargo, open 9AM- 6PM.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com. ■ Florence Ditlow

Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse, an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center. She has shelter pets who take the pet stress remedy.



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THE STARS HAVE IT

Late December 2015

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Look into the cost factor, but don't try to get backing yet. You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips. Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. You should focus on moneymaking matters. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Unstable relationships are likely. Your determination and stamina will make your work look less and effortless. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent. You need to spend time with friends and family. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face. You have been going through a period of change that has caused problems for you with your loved ones. New romantic ties can be made; however, you must make sure that your motives are not selfish before you make your move. You're on the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't hesitate to voice your ideas and opinions. Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Do your chores and get on with the things you enjoy doing. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can expect to face opposition on the home front. Try and avoid getting involved in idle chatter or gossip that might get you in trouble. Believe in yourself and so will those who count. Changes regarding your image will bring you greater confidence. Your lucky day will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your family needs to spend some time with you, too. Outbursts of passion may cause arguments with your mate. Sudden changes could result in estrangement's. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other

family members. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Social gatherings will be conducive to meeting new potential mates. If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. Your high energy will enable you to take the role of leader in group functions. Try to be reasonable. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will attract new love interests. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Someone close to you will get upset easily if you are insensitive to their needs. Your partner may be erratic this week if you haven't paid enough attention to him or her. Your lucky day will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. Don't be too quick to judge your position or surroundings at work. You'll find it easy to meet new people. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may be confused emotionally. You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity. Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. Be careful that you don't spend too much time with a person belonging to someone else. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your best gains will come through helping others emotionally. Don't be too quick to spend money. Travel will be fun and entertaining. Someone you live with is ready to play emotional games. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Help elders in your family. You should avoid getting involved in the personal problems of colleagues. You will find their philosophies worth exploring. Opportunities to travel will be favorable in terms of moneymaking connections. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday. ■

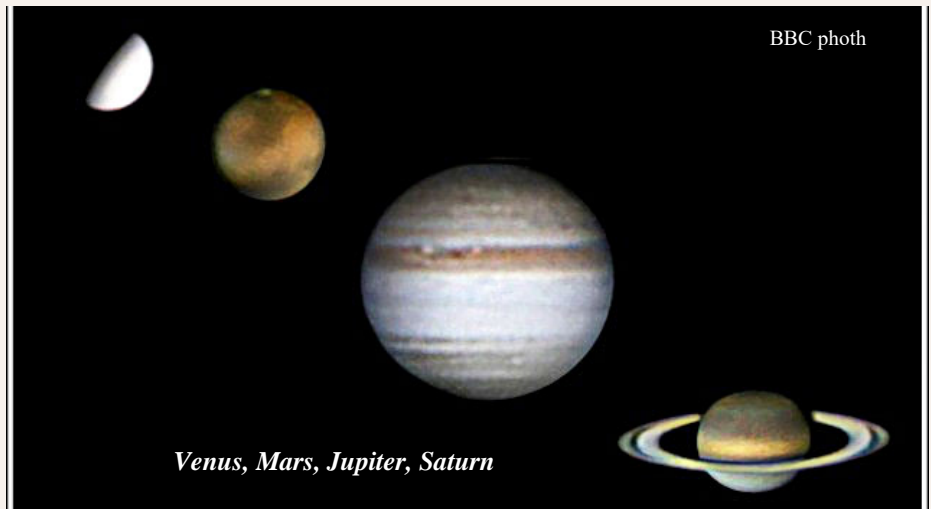
Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

PLANETS OF THE NEW YEAR



Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn

As we close out 2015 and ring in 2016, we're sorry to say that there are no planets visible just after dark in the Sky Park right now. But early birds rejoice! There is a boat-load of them that you can check out just before dawn. We have **Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Saturn,** and the **Moon** around in the morning sky to ring in the new year.

On Sunday January 3rd, 2016 (Happy New Year!) face southeast at 5am. In the early morning you'll see a waning crescent Moon bracketed by two stars of similar brightness. The one on the right is blue and twinkly, while the one on the left is orange and less twinkly. The blue star is called **Spica** and it's the brightest star in the constellation of **Virgo the Maiden**. She's the second largest constellation in the sky.

The orange star isn't a star at all, but is really the red planet Mars. The Moon will be visiting the duo on the morning of the 3rd.

At around 6:15, low in the southeast you can find two other planets among the stars of the constellation **Scorpius the Scorpion**. The brighter planet is so suspiciously bright that many people mistake it for a plane or UFO. That's Venus, our sister planet, who, when we look up close, is covered in clouds. These clouds reflect a lot of sunlight, making Venus the brightest planet from **Earth**, and they also trap in a ton of heat. So Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system with temperatures of

about 900 degrees Fahrenheit.

We have another planet down and to the left of Venus. It might be hard to find at first but keep trying every morning and you're sure to see Saturn. Saturn is way bigger than Venus, but is over a billion miles away from us, so it doesn't shine super-bright in our Earthly skies.

On January 6th, same time of morning, the Moon will appear closer to the two planets and on the 7th will move on in its orbit, and be down and to the left of Saturn.

There is one more planet to talk about, and you can see it high in the southwest just before dawn. On the morning of December 31, New Year's Eve, the Moon will be right next to it. That's giant Jupiter, largest planet in our solar system and unmistakable to the naked eye.

In a telescope Jupiter shows off its atmosphere with stripes of different colors and, on occasion, the Great Red Spot. Plus it has four large moons that revolve around it, creating ever-changing alignments as seen from Earth. As 2016 begins, the Moon will move away from Jupiter. On January 3rd, it'll be right next to Mars.

So there you have it. A terrific reason to wake up early at the start of 2016. We'll have the Moon next to Mars on January 3rd and 4th. The Moon next to Venus and Saturn on January 6th and 7th and Jupiter high up in the south as dawn breaks in the Bonaire Sky Park ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

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Mo	09:00	-	17:00
Tu	09:00	-	17:00
We	09:00	-	17:00
Th	09:00	-	17:00
Fr	09:00	-	17:00