

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE *Bonaire Reporter- Feb. 15- Mar. 7, 2016 -Year 23, Issue 4*
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

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

Art Weekend
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**Artist Rik van Tongeren with Ellen Herrera, owner of the restored kunuku Rooi Lamoenchi shown in the painting.
At La Cantina Restaurant**

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Bonaire continues its reign as one of the world's top dive destinations as the island secured 12 different awards in the *Scuba Diving Magazine's* Readers' Choice Awards. **For the 10th year, Bonaire has taken first place for Best Overall Diving in the Caribbean/Atlantic region.**



Bonaire received first place in four other Caribbean/Atlantic categories: Best Shore Diving for the 23rd consecutive year; Best Beginner Diving; Best Macro Diving; and Best Snorkeling. The second place rankings include Best Value; Best Marine Environment; and Best Underwater Photography. Bonaire also ranked #4 for Visibility and Advanced Diving and #5 for Wreck Diving and Best Cave.

For the Readers' Choice Awards, thousands of *Scuba Diver* subscribers and web users rated their dive experiences on a scale of one to five. Results of the 2016 Awards are featured in the January/February 2016 issues of *Scuba Diving Magazine*.

► Starting June 12, 2016, **United Airlines will offer a second non-stop flight from Newark to Bonaire every Sunday.**

The southbound Bonaire flight will depart Newark International Airport (EWR) on Sunday at 9am, arriving in Bonaire International Airport (BON) at 1:45pm. The northbound return flight will depart BON at 2:45pm, and arrive at EWR at 7:50pm. The Sunday non-stop flight is slated to run through August 2016.

In addition to the Sunday flight, United will still offer their Saturday non-stop service from EWR to BON. The southbound United flight, UA1422, will have the same depart/arrive schedule

► **THE HAGUE--The prison population rates in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are comparable with those in St. Maarten and other small islands in the Caribbean** and are a little higher than those in Curaçao and Aruba, Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur stated in a letter to the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber.

The detention rates in the Caribbean Netherlands are five times higher than in the European Netherlands, according to a report by Scientific Research and Documentation Centre WODC, the Minister stated.

► Rincon, the oldest village on Bonaire, and in the former Netherlands Antilles, is on the way to celebrate its 500 years of existence in 2027. **Visit Rincon and take the historical village tour with Soldachi Tours. Then experience living in Rincon by staying in the vacation house ...Kas Rincon.** Call Maria Koeks Sintjago.. cellphone +599 796-7870 for more information.

► If you have not received a notice of the cost of your road tax it does not mean that you don't have a legal obligation to pay it. After you have paid the tax at the bank or on line the tax office asks you do the following:

1. Download the appeal via the OLB website, through www.bonairegov.com/downloads... but when we tried we got a "U bevindt zich hier: Page not found" message. However a model objection form can be found on the Unkobon Consumers Union Website: www.consumentenbonaire.com

2. Fill in the appeal fully (specify your vehicle data) and sign. Attach a copy of a valid ID (passport, driving license or sedula), a copy of the insurance certificate of the vehicle(s) concerned and a copy of the receipt(s) from the bank. Many persons who received a notice found the fuel of their vehicle listed incorrectly (Usually as "diesel" for which the tax is four-times that of gas.)

3. These documents can be handed in at the Finance Department of the OLB at Abraham Boulevard 27 or by e-mail belasting-olb@bonairegov.com

4. You will receive a confirmation of receipt of your appeal, either by mail or in person, said the government notice.

► On Wednesday, February 10, the police received a report of **two women on SUPs (Stand Up Paddleboards) who were at sea rapidly drifting downwind fast pushed by the strong wind.** They were rescued by a dive boat from Divi Flamingo and returned to Te Amo Beach.

► An American man, E.C. (56), was found dead at the Kralendijk waterfront on Saturday at 3:30pm. He was found lying on the ground and no longer showed any sign of life. An autopsy will be conducted by the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) to determine the exact cause of death.

► **The former building where City Café and Hotel Rochaline were located was sold to the Visser family**, owners of Karel's Beach Bar. Karel Visser has the plans ready, and this week will start with the closing of the site shortly to be able to start construction. The goal is to be able to open in October this year.



The concept will remain the same: there will be a bar / restaurant and a luxury boutique hotel with trendy rooms with a slightly higher price range. The name and logo are now known, as shown above, the "Islander"

► **The average American owns less wealth than people in many other developed countries.**

The median wealth of an American adult is roughly \$34,316. That's far below that of adults in countries like Japan (\$78,862), Luxembourg (\$78,453), the United Kingdom (\$75,734), Norway (\$54,362), the Netherlands (\$52,649), Switzerland (\$43,700), and Australia (\$47,477.) No figures were listed for Bonaire.

► **It is a little over two months until Friday, April 22, Earth Day.** The theme for Earth Day-2016 is "Trees for the Earth." The campaign is a commitment to plant 7.8 billion trees around the world, one for every person on Earth, by Earth Day's 50th anniversary, Earth Day 2020. Bonaire already has a head start. See story on page 11

► **SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, removed heavy trash from Playa Frans in preparation for the "Bon Doet"** island-wide volun-

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► Tourism Commissioner Clark Abraham and recently appointed TCB Director Maurice Adriaens met to discuss **various issues in the field of tourism** at a meeting last week. They have a joint results-oriented vision to progress Bonaire's Tourism. Other important aspects were dealt with, including the question of what makes Bonaire unique. The TCB is responsible for developing a strategic plan for tourism.

Meeting participants from left to right: **Advisor Hennyson Thielman, Deputy Clark Abraham, Maurice Adriaens, Gabriele Trixi and Malinda Hassell** of the TCB,

(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)

teer day March 11 and 12. The owners of derelict boats located there were also contacted to remove their wrecks. Supporters of "Fundashon Historiko i Kultural Boneiru" FuHiKuBo will clean the beach area that has become a popular shore dive spot.

► Styrofoam, the most common material used for "take out food" on Bonaire is not recyclable and last a long time in the environment. **However, the Rose Inn in Rincon, who offers some of the island's**

best local food, has replaced it with an alternative, which looks pretty much the same, but which is degradable and recyclable. Bobbejans BBQ also is using the biodegradable boxes.



► **Best deal on the island?** Visit the Bon Bida gym this week (Feb. 14-21) and your guest/partner's visit is free.



► **Here's your chance to climb to the highest point on island!** Due to the high demand, STINAPA is offering another chance to climb Brandaris for a spectacular view of the sunset on Saturday, February 27th.

There is space for 20 participants. **Secure your spot and register by calling 717-8444** or send an email to washingtonpark@stinapa.org. Registration is required for participation. Participants must arrange their own transport to and within the park. Admission is \$10 for everyone who has pre-registered for this hike.

Participants must be present at the entrance of the park before 4 pm. A good physical condition is important and children 10 years and up may participate only if accompanied by an adult. Put on hiking shoes and bring your own water and a snack and don't forget to bring a flashlight.

Part of the hike is quite a clamber to the top, but once you reach it the views are spectacular! Part of the descent will be in the dark, so make sure you have a working light. Everyone will be back at the park entrance around 7.30 pm.

And if he/she joins they will get a 25% discount on membership. Get fit for free!

contribute to the cause, contact projectstromvogel@gmail.com

► **Masha danki to RE/MAX Paradise Homes** for their very generous contribution to the *Stormvogel* Foundation. This money will go directly to buying materials for the historic restoration of *Stormvogel*, the last of the sailing cargo ships built in the ABC Islands. If your company would like to

► The first weekend in March is shaping up into something special: On Friday there is the **World Premier Wine Tasting Event** at the Wine Barrel on the South Pier, on Saturday there is the big **10 Artists' Show** at La Cantina Restaurant and on Sunday, the **Walkathon to benefit Special Olympics Bonaire**. ■ *G./L.D.*

Kaya Kuarts 4

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Lagoen Hill 60

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Lagoen Hill 54

\$ 225.000 US Dollar

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Covered porch on the wind overlooking the Kunuku



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f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

On The Island Since... February 24th, 2012 - Pierre Perigault Monte



Pierre Perigault Monte at Jong Bonaire



Pierre (on the left) at the top of his track and field career

I was born December 3, 1964, on Curacao where my father was in politics. On May 30, 1969, when Punda was set on fire and the workers seized power, it meant the political end for the Jews and Protestants. It turned out to be best for my father and his family to leave. He was transferred to the Department of Social Affairs on St. Martin. I was four. I skipped kindergarten and went straight to elementary school. When I'd finished fourth grade we moved to The Hague, Holland, where I grew up.

As a teenager I played baseball and was on the school's soccer team until my gymnastics teacher, who had been an international athlete, set up a track and field course. First my brother broke all the existing records from the last 35 years. Then it was my turn and I wiped out my brother's record.

The teacher insisted we join a track and field association; after a lot of pressure we followed his advice and it was the start of a shiny track and field career! I was Dutch champion at 200 meters indoor, 100 meters outside, 4 x 100 meters relay race – of which I was the Dutch record holder for 12 years. In 1992 I was nominated for the Olympics but we didn't reach the limit. However, in 1993 we participated in the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

I practiced nine times a week, I didn't drink, I didn't go out. Everything was focused on sports and all my good friends were sportsmen. When I'd started, my trainer told me, 'We're going to run, but you're also going to study!' and so I became a high school history teacher.

In 1986 I started working as a substitute teacher at different schools in a great variety of neighborhoods of The Hague. Then I was asked to teach a graduating class with behavioral problems in secondary special education. The school was located in a working class district. I was 22 years old and my six predecessors had been intimidated by the students in such a way that they'd resigned. I did it for one year. One day one of the fathers entered the schoolyard and grabbed one of the boys – not his son – by the throat with terrifying aggression! We managed to pull him off but I realized that norms and values of that neighborhood were unknown to me. It was a true eye opener!

So, after that year I went back to Univer-

sity to study Educational Psychology. The first two years I studied full-time – next to the track and field career – while my dad paid for everything as I refused to live as a poor student! He never told me 'Go find a job!' but after two years I saw an ad for a teacher for 18 hours per week at a Dalton School. I was hired but eight months later I was working full-time and I had become a part-time student, next to my sports career.

Three years later I moved to Amsterdam where I became the Deputy Director of the Europa School. The goal of the school was to unite Europe and so, from kindergarten the four Roman languages were introduced to the preschoolers. It was a fantastic con-

cept and a huge success. I did that for three years and felt like I'd won the jackpot!

In 1993 I stopped running; I was still training but no longer at a high level. Then, in 1994, my mother passed away at the age of 67. She was buried on Curacao. I was 30 and it was a tremendous blow because I was a mama's boy, the youngest of her 10 children. Suddenly I wanted to graduate, no matter what, to honor my mother, and I did so the next year. I felt it was time to grow up and start a career.

I got a job with PPI, a psychological/pedagogic institution in Amsterdam and worked as a project leader/trainer. Also I was teaching social skills trainings in youth and judicial institutions. I worked there for 12 years. In the end PPI became a secondary education school for children with behavioral problems and I became the Site Manager in Amsterdam-West.

During those 12 years I took a break and worked at the British School in Houston, Texas. I saw the ad, I wrote and was accepted. Then I grabbed my cat and told him 'Let's go!' It was paradise! But after four years it all came to an end when Shell relocated the Dutch families and the preference was given to a British teacher.

I flew back to Amsterdam with Air

France, the only airline which allowed my cat to travel in my arms. There he sat all the way, looking somewhat puzzled, maybe thinking 'I don't know what's going on, but he is holding me, so I am safe.' In Amsterdam I was immediately re-hired by PPI. It was 2006.

Until then I'd always said that if the time was right I would go back to the islands. It has been a deliberate process of 10 years. I always wanted to contribute to the development of the Antilles. Throughout the years I used to come here frequently and I monitored the political and social situation.

So, after the terrible economic recession

advised in establishing the social trajectory program on Saba and Statia which was so much fun! And... then I was done – at least it felt like that!

In September 2015 I became the General Manager at Jong Bonaire. Jong Bonaire offers an after-school educational program for students 12 to 19. Next to homework assistance and social studies we offer activities where young people can develop competencies and skills. Jong Bonaire also offers a facility of 17 apartments, 'Sentro Shark,' where people, 18 to 27, can live under guidance on the road to independence.

My goal is to put 'Sentro Shark' back on the map of the regular Social Care System, so they'll know how to find us.

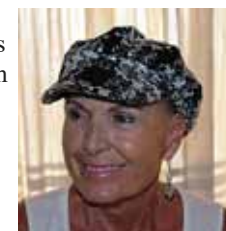
And last but not least Jong Bonaire is also known for events like the Fun Walk and the Swim to Klein Bonaire. We are subsidized by OLB and the Ministry of VWS in Holland, but we also generate money by fundraising and donations. This is not a community center, it's a developmental center and I will do everything in my power to expand it further and to keep the quality at a high level.

On Saturday, February 20, from 5 to 7pm, we will have an Open House at Jong Bonaire, Kaya Lib. Simón Bolívar 16 (phone 717-4303), to show everyone who we are, what we've done so far and all that we're planning to do. All are welcome!

For me personally, I know I won't go anywhere anymore. It took me 10 years to land here and I don't want to go back. My father is 91 and he and two of my brothers live on Curacao. I really enjoy discussing the political and social issues with him; I think that's what keeps him alive! I also have one sister and one brother on Aruba. So, five of us children are living in the Caribbean.

I can tell you that my dream has come true. I'm extremely proud to contribute to the educational and academic development of youngsters on this island. There is a lot of potential and people can build a future, socially and professionally where there is room to grow for them and the island." ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



“Bonaire is beautiful; not only its quietness, its nature and its people, but also the fact that it's called Dutch Caribbean.”

in Europe in 2008, things changed, also at PPI. It was time for reorganization and eight directors had to go. I was 47 and I thought maybe this was the sign I'd been waiting for to follow my dream. When I resigned with PPI (with a comfortable handshake), I already had a job with Forma on Bonaire as a coordinator of the social trajectory program. So I took my new cat (the old one passed away at the age of 20 – I still miss him), left Amsterdam and flew to Bonaire.

People tell me, 'What a change!' but I've travelled the whole world at least three times and I've done literally everything I ever wanted, so I was ready to live here! Bonaire is beautiful; not only its quietness, its nature and its people, but also the fact that it's called Dutch Caribbean. Although I was born on the Antilles, I feel my way of thinking is European and so this is like home away from home.

I worked for three years at Forma. It was the first educational institution of the three BES islands to win the basic quality certificate, and I am proud to say I contributed to that success. Also I set up a department where young people, 18 to 24 get a second chance in education, something essential for Bonaire.

Another highlight was that I guided and

Picture Yourself With The Reporter On The Grossglockner, Austria

Nel Tesselaar and Egmond Aan Zee sent this picture of the Grossglockner, the highest mountain of Austria. Egmond was there with his sister on a holiday! Nel writes, "Every year my husband and I visit Bonaire, this year for the 12th time! We also climbed the highest mountain of Bonaire, the Brandaris."



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Jupiter, Florida, USA



Eddy and Marion de Wit-Korschilgen write: "On our recent trip to Florida we had a small Bonaire reunion with four former Bonaire residents - Mitchell and Jennifer Heath, Jolanda Geerdings and John Hoedemakers at the home of Jennifer and Mitchell in Jupiter, Florida. The original plan was to watch the annual Holiday Boat Parade in Palm Beach from a rental boat. But it was raining that day. We still got into the Christmas spirit while sitting next to this huge beautiful Christmas tree."

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. Last year it was a fabulous dinner for two at La Balandra. ■

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Wonders of Nature?

First, to reassure the readers who were concerned about my troubled youth after reading my precious story about the toilet bowl: my parents are still happily married and I don't have a twin brother!



Discarded suitcases

Every day I walk my dogs in the *mondi*. And every day nature looks different. I never get bored. Unfortunately there is more to see than pure nature in the *mondi*. A lot of people think they should brighten up nature with their own waste materials. So, every day I see new trash and that makes me wonder. I will share my wondering about this waste and nature with you and hope that this might contribute to putting waste where it belongs: in the landfill.

Travel Light

Just before sunset I walk on a wide dirt road in the *mondi* near Amboina and suddenly I see something blue on my right-hand side, just behind a small sandy hill. I walk over to it and discover two suitcases that are as good as new. I wonder, how did these get here? As I have a vivid imagination I start wondering about the answer.



"Don't throw trash here
Go to the landfill"

At the end of a well-deserved vacation on Bonaire Andrew and Chris pack their suitcases and put them in their pickup. They start to clean the floor of their holiday-cottage to leave the house as they found it: spotlessly clean. Half an hour later they prepare to leave for the airport, but to their complete surprise they find that their bags have been stolen from the truck. As their plane will not wait, they decide to return to the States without luggage. Wearing only flip-flops and shorts they arrive at Flamingo Airport, and entering the plane they start freezing. Cold to the bone they land in a wintry New York covered with snow. They suddenly realize their house keys were in one of the stolen suitcases as well....The usually very polite couple starts to yell and scream at Kennedy Airport until the police come to arrest them. Dressed as they are and cursing as they do, they are locked up and the next day they are transported to a psychiatric hospital. The holiday feeling is over.

At that same time on Bonaire the thieves find out that there is nothing of interest in the suitcases they'd grabbed out of the pickup and dump them in the *mondi* of Amboina.

A few days later I walk in the same place and see that someone has dared to open the suitcases. The content consists of a couple of towels, medicines, some keys and warm clothes. Could the story I invented be true? It remains a mystery, unless someone who reads this article recognizes the suitcases as his or hers.

But I wonder: do I really want to know the true story behind my discovery? Or is inventing possibilities much better and more exciting than reality? ■ Story & photos by Justine Verschoor



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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

CRUISIN' AND TOURIN' – KRALENDIJK NORTH

" 'Bon bini na Boneiru.' This means welcome to Bonaire. Your driver today is Joshua and my name is Karen."

"Let me show you a map of Bonaire. Your beautiful cruise ship is moored in Kralendijk, the capital of Bonaire. Kralendijk translates as coral dike. The tour you have chosen is the North Tour. To drive North from Kralendijk, the tour takes us first through town, which the locals lovingly call 'Playa,' meaning, simply, beach. Most of our natural beaches consist of long piles of small, tinkling coral fragments. . . . No sir, we do not have many sandy beaches, unless you count the ones created by some of the hotels. . . . Whether we have sharks? Sure, mostly just harmless nurse sharks, occasionally a bull or reef shark. I've never encountered them, though I'm told divers do see them on the easterly side of the island. . . . I'm sorry sir, it's only 8 am, the liquor stores aren't open yet. You'll have to wait until 9 o'clock. . . . No, that's just water in my bottle, not vodka, and no, I'm not sharing. OK, let me continue my story please, and you may ask questions later."

Cruise ship tourism runs from October to April, during which time the port of Kralendijk receives on average of three cruise ships per week. Our port is able to accommodate giant, deep-draft cruise ships, such as the *Royal Princess* with a capacity of 3,600 people. Who doesn't recognize *The Princess'* Love Boat tune playing just before its evening departure; it's either loved or hated.

"On your left side you can see one of our oldest buildings. It's the main government building on Bonaire and it was built in 1837. See that building with the colorful paintings on its wall across from us, now approaching on your right? One evening I actually heard music emitting from this bulwark. Can any of you guess what this could be? No, it's not a bar. Not a school either. Good guesses though. It's our rockin' jail."

Wealthy Americans used to fill these cruise ships; however, more affordable prices now attract less privileged travelers as well. Mammoths such as the *Royal Princess*, the *Serenade of the Seas*, and the *Carnival* cruise ships offer attractive deals such as all-inclusive meals with non-alcoholic beverages. As a result, most cruise passengers dine on board, and tend not to spend money on island cuisine. You can actually watch some of the beach bars clear out just before noon so that the cruisers can get back on board for lunch. Still, these ships disgorge their hapless hordes in search of mementos, gewgaws and entertainment, such as our island tours.

"Now we are entering Kaya Grandi, which is our main shopping street. Kaya Grandi stands for large street, but in a wink and a sigh the end of the street is



Typical scenes of the cruise-ship tourist's Bonaire: Downtown Kralendijk, Bus tour, cruise ship at night, to the water taxi.

near at hand. Please, visit our Arts and Crafts Market on your left side. These products are all unique and crafted right here on Bonaire. . . . No, they're not made in China – well, mostly not. Make sure to visit our Salt Store on the left where you can buy our genuine and pure

Bonaire salt, made by the sun on our southern salt flats. On your right check out our ice cream and coffee shop, Gio's. . . . No, goats and donkeys are not allowed to enter the stores. And neither are you without shoes and a T-shirt. . . . Could you please put your shirt back

on? Masha danki, which means thanks a lot!"

With its proximity to Florida and Gulf Coast homeports for most of the major cruise lines, the Caribbean remains the world's most popular cruise destination, accounting for 44% of all cruise ship passengers globally. The industry brings in roughly 21 million passengers a year and contributes around \$2 billion to the region's economy (ukessays.com). About a year ago, *The Bonaire Reporter* quoted a release from Bonaire's TCB, estimating Bonaire's cruise ship revenues to have increased approximately 15 million from 2013 to 2016. This year cruise tourism is anticipated to double from last year's 144,000 cruise passengers.

"Bonaire, along with St. Eustatius and Saba, form the BES islands, which became a special municipality of the Netherlands on October 10, 2010, and which receive financial support in the areas of education, health care and government administration. Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten are separate countries within the Dutch Kingdom. They are financially independent except in the areas of foreign affairs and defense. Bonaire's population is around 19 thousand; about two-thirds are from here and other Dutch islands, one third are from other parts of the world, including from the Netherlands. . . . Where I'm from? Well, originally from the Netherlands, but I became a US citizen about 20 years ago. . . . No, The Netherlands is not a province of Africa. Joshua, stop laughing!"

"Bonaire covers about 112 square miles. Our average temps are in the middle 80s and we get an average of 22 inches of rain in a year. Our rainy season typically runs from November through January. Bonaire is one of the Leeward Islands, or ABC Islands, together with Aruba and Curaçao. . . . Whether we eat our donkeys? I don't think they'd be very tasty, and by the way, our donkeys are protected here. Yes, we do dine on goat meat, 'kabitru' – yummm!"

The local economy might benefit because of spending by cruise passengers and crew, which in turn directly benefits tour companies, taxis and other tourist services providers, and at least indirectly, some restaurants, downtown shops and other local businesses. This could well mean more jobs for the island.

"Bonaire is very popular as a top diving and snorkeling destination. In fact, we rank number 1 as the best shore diving spot of the world. As you see, Bonaire is surrounded by water, which we call the Bonaire Marine Park. Our marine park is alive with beautiful coral and at least 200 different species of fish. Taking of our corals and shells home is not allowed. Sure, you can take some of our blue water home, Miss."

We continue our North Tour next time!

Story by Karen Bastiaan Gilmore; photos by Karen and Art Perera.



Power From The Sun

Bonaire's power company, WEB, has one of the highest rates for electricity in the region. But now there is an affordable alternative to getting electric power to our homes and businesses.



A Global Solar Trading installation on Bonaire

It's using solar energy which shines abundantly on our island. The sun's light is converted into household electricity by your PV system. PV stands for Photo Voltaic and a PV system consists of a set of solar panels, an inverter to convert PV electricity to 120v or 220v, just like WEB, mounting hardware, cables, and monitoring equipment. After installation the power will be available to your home and if desired, stored in batteries. If you do not have batteries, or produce more power than you can use, the PV system energy will return to Web. You get a small payment for this from Web.

In Europe and America solar power has been booming since 2008; the industry is growing rapidly and the panels are finding their way to power individual homes and businesses. That is because the prices of solar panel delivered power have plunged to a level that makes them competitive with fossil fuel electricity.

In addition the reliability, technology, associated components of the panels are constantly improving. It's especially gratifying to have electric power when WEB has an outage.

But what about on Bonaire? Last July, Global Solar Trading on Kaya Korona was established to help bring the solar revolution to our island. It is affiliated with a company that has years of experience with solar panels worldwide, the American company Honeywell.

Why, when it makes such good sense, are there so few companies and individuals on the island who use the free clean energy of the sun? Perhaps it is because there was no company that could provide the expertise and equipment necessary.

Now Global Solar Trading can do this.

Review your energy bills of the past few months and see what your monthly energy consumption is. Using this information Global Solar can calculate for you how many panels you need. Do you want your entire usage provided by solar panels or just a part? You even have a choice to completely or partially convert to solar power. It is even possible to use WEB power at night or on cloudy days or have your own batteries supply the power.

Let's keep the sky, sea and earth in Bonaire clean. Supply of energy from fossil fuels, nuclear power, etc. on Bonaire is not really necessary. In fact, *The Bonaire Reporter* has been published for 10 years exclusively on solar energy without an outage.

Soon Global Solar Trading www.honeywell-solar.com will offer information sessions about solar panels and batteries and anything else you want to know about PV systems. In the next *Bonaire Reporter* you can read more about it. For more information call: +599 717 1108 or E-mail: arga@globalsolartrading.com. ■ G.D./ Press release



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Landfill Fire



Bonaire firefighters quickly brought a landfill fire under control last Friday morning. Heavy smoke poured from the fire which was visible tens of kilometers away. Residents were alarmed because a fire last year burned for weeks forcing evacuation of nearby homes.

Consequently a close watch is being maintained at the landfill. The cause of the fire is unknown and the fire department is investigating. ■ G.D.

Selibon photo



Firemen getting the fire under control

FISHINAR—FREE SEMINARS - REEF FISH ID and BEHAVIOR



Monday evenings March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at C.I.E.E. 6:30-7 pm

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Followed by specific lectures from 7- 8:30 pm

March 7 First 50 fish (novice level 2)

March 14 Second 50 fish (novice level 3, part 1)

March 21 Third 50 fish (novice level 3, part 2)

March 28 Special Bonaire fish

That's a lot of fish (FREE)! Sessions are led by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White, and are for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling, or anyone who just wants to look at some

nice underwater pictures and video clips.

Attend any or all sessions to learn what's really going on underwater; it will enrich your diving experience. Everyone is welcome.

Helmets



About the old fool and the new helmet.
This is the 30th of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

A NEW HELMET

Bonaire/Hato –

So, some day last December, an adult guy on a motor scooter passed by, turned the vehicle around and made a stop at the house with the helmets in Hato. He was wearing the black helmet I had given him before and now he was in the need of another helmet for one of his sons. At that moment I did not have a single helmet to give away in stock so I decided to give him my own mountain bike/skate board helmet. The guy resisted my offer as he realized this was my own and private helmet and he did not want me to ride around without a safety helmet. I told him that, now that I was informed, I could not live with the knowledge of the little boy as a passenger on the motor scooter not wearing my last helmet. Suppose he and his father would get involved in an accident! Then the father was convinced and he left

with the helmet.

Those days in December I was completely involved in the selling of the house with the helmets, the downsizing and minimizing of my life and I thought there would be no time for me strolling over the island with my American Mongoose mountain bike.

Last January I moved to a very small house on the southern edge of Kralendijk. I discovered the moving to a smaller place, the downsizing and the minimizing made me able to find extra time. So I blew some air in the tubes of my bike and I started cycling in and around the capital of the island. After a few miles I realized I was not wearing a helmet as I did not have one any more. Then I realized I enjoyed the riding and the environment that much, especially being retired and having extra time and money because of selling the house and the downsizing. Finally I understood that my head and my brains were only protected by a cotton cap! Then, immediately, I ran my bike into the DeFreewieler Bike Shop and I informed Frank, the owner, how stupid and silly I was: being retired, with the goal to enjoy the next 42 years of my life. You



Modeling the new headgear

never know but at least there is a plan and a goal. Frank understood. After a couple of minutes I was the proud owner of a black and metallic grey light weight Specialized helmet. You have to pay some money for a serious helmet, but one's life and the intention to live another 42 years are worth a fortune! That night I fell asleep with the helmet positioned next to my pillow.

On Thursday February 11th I took the mountain bike for a ride again. Sunglasses, gloves, back pack, outdoor shoes, cap. I locked the front door and closed the fence, ready to hit the unpaved road. Suddenly I realized I had completely forgotten my new light weight bicycle helmet! I opened the

gate, unlocked the front door and grabbed the helmet. Stupid fool I was! Now I felt safe.

This helmet is really a top quality light weight helmet and it has a sun visor too, so you do not need a cap to protect you. Just realize: a helmet does not make you smarter but it can keep you as smart as you are for a longer period of time. Do grab that helmet. You and your head are worth it!

■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer





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Karnaval

Karnaval 2016 was amazing considering there was so little time between Christmas-New Years celebrations. Not all the usual groups were able to get it together in the short time but those that could outshone themselves. Costumes, makeup, floats, music were over the top. Congratulations to all those who made the incredible effort to keep the Karnaval spirit alive on Bonaire!

The main carnival parade on Sunday, February 7, was a great success. It assembled at the traffic circle near the van der Tweel supermarket around 2 pm and marched into downtown Kralendijk along Kaya Nikiboko South. Rincon had its Grand March parade a day earlier. The Tuesday night, February 9, was the farewell parade and burning of King Momo. ■ L./G. D.

Photos from Internet



Fantasy costumes and colors



Commissioner Dirksz and the kids











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Echo Plants More Trees



Junior Rangers at Dos Pos

On Saturday, January 23, Echo (the non-profit foundation for conserving the Loras of Bonaire) and the STINAPA Junior Ranger Aspirant group came together at Kunuku Dos Pos for a tree planting day.

Kunuku Dos Pos is owned by the Ballentin-Sint Jago family but is generously made available to Echo for its Conservation Centre. The Echo team recently enclosed a new 2ha area on the front of the property (along the road) where in the past many mango and coconut palm trees used to grow.

Due to the prolonged drought and weak rainy seasons, many of these very old fruit trees have been dying recently. But new life was breathed into the property recently when Echo and the Junior Rangers worked to plant over 140 native trees in the area.

The reason that the area has been fenced is to convert it into an 'herbivore exclusion zone' - an area that was fenced in order to keep the goats, donkeys and wild pigs out. Why native trees?! Not only are native trees naturally more suited to the rocky soils and dry conditions of Bonaire, they belong here! In planting native trees back into the environment, Echo and its community partners can help to restore Bonaire dry forests. Dry forests are typically overlooked by visitors and locals alike, but in fact they can be home to many interesting types of birds, insects, and

trees, of course.

Many trees we are already familiar with are also native to Bonaire's dry forest, such as the **wayaka (lignum vitae)**, **kenepa**, **shimaruku (West Indian cherry)**, and many more. Native trees help to feed and house the animals which live on Bonaire. Their roots will also help keep soil in place, and - if they drop their leaves during the dry season - those leaves will break down and produce new soil.

Trees also provide shade and help keep the air a little cooler when they are fully grown.

Echo is working to establish reforestation areas throughout the island, thanks to generous funding from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Island Government. These areas will be full of native trees and will feature walking trails so that members of the community can get out and enjoy nature and help Echo to protect the young trees which are growing there. This Reforestation project was initiated in 2015 and will continue for at least one year, so stay tuned for more updates regarding opportunities to help restore the dry forest habitat near you.

And there is more. Lauren Schmalz, the head of the Echo Nature Conservation on Bonaire writes, "In recognition of Leap Year, Echo would like to propose to



Michaela, Sam and Sara check out some Dos Pos leaves.

you! Join us on a wonderful walk through the woods, the first of four planned 'themed nature walks' on February 29th at 4:30pm where we will explore the 'Magnificence of Bonaire's Trees.' The tour will be held at Dos Pos where Echo's Conservation Centre is based and will emphasize the work that Echo is doing in helping protect and restore Bonaire's beautiful dry forest. The tour is free and open to the public with no prior reservation necessary. Donations are always welcome and encouraged. If you are interested in learning more about Echo's work on Bonaire and how you might become involved, please contact us at info@echobonaire.org." ■ *Press release*



The magical wayaka (lignum vitae)



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Downtown Art Weekend



Two works by Ronald Verhoeven



That's a painting behind artist Fred v.d. Broek!



Germaine Nijdam relaxes on her driftwood art bench



At the Verhoeven exhibition



Artist Josephine Ebing points out the four faces of her sculpture

Bonaire is home to a number of artists—some who enjoy international recognition, some home grown, some self taught, some discovering a new career.

Since the sad demise of the *Kas di Arte* (House of Art) on the waterfront, artists haven't had a regular place to show their work. But, thanks to La Cantina Restaurant who offered their space to artists **Rik van Tongeren**, **Josephine Ebing** and **Fred v.d. Broek** for two weekend showings. And thanks to Pakus di Tela for offering their store for **Ronald Verhoeven's** and **Germaine Nijdam's** exhibit. **The Pakus di Tela remains open and the art is for sale.**

But still it is a shame that the island hasn't an established site for artists to show their work. After all, artists are important as it is they who are able to show the soul of a community, an island, a country, the world. ■ L.D.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	
	First Quarter	00:46	07:04	14:51	19:27			
Mon 15		-0.16 ft	0.95 ft	-0.15 ft	0.30 ft	6:57	18:42	
Tue 16		01:28	07:51	15:50	20:25	6:57	18:42	
Wed 17		-0.15 ft	1.00 ft	-0.19 ft	0.25 ft	6:57	18:42	
		02:10	08:39	16:46	21:23			
Thu 18		-0.12 ft	1.01 ft	-0.20 ft	0.21 ft	6:56	18:42	
		02:53	09:27	17:42	22:23			
Fri 19		-0.09 ft	0.98 ft	-0.19 ft	0.19 ft	6:56	18:43	
		03:38	10:16	18:38	23:27			
Sat 20		-0.04 ft	0.93 ft	-0.17 ft	0.18 ft	6:56	18:43	
		04:25	11:05	19:33				
Sun 21		00:36	05:19	11:57	20:25	6:55	18:43	
		01:19 ft	0.08 ft	0.75 ft	-0.11 ft			
Mon 22		01:47	06:24	12:50	21:13	Full Moon	6:54	18:43
		02:22 ft	0.13 ft	0.66 ft	-0.08 ft			
Tue 23		02:51	07:47	13:45	21:53		6:54	18:44
		03:28 ft	0.17 ft	0.57 ft	-0.04 ft			
Wed 24		03:41	09:18	14:43	22:27		6:53	18:44
		04:20 ft	0.18 ft	0.48 ft	-0.01 ft			
Thu 25		04:02 ft	10:41	15:40	22:55		6:53	18:44
		04:52	11:48	16:34	23:18			
Fri 26		04:47 ft	0.11 ft	0.36 ft	0.02 ft		6:52	18:44
		05:20	12:43	17:23	23:40			
Sat 27		05:53 ft	0.06 ft	0.31 ft	0.03 ft		6:52	18:44
		05:49	13:30	18:07				
Sun 28		06:00 ft	0.01 ft	0.27 ft			6:51	18:44
		00:03	06:18	14:12	18:47			
Mon 29		00:03 ft	0.66 ft	-0.03 ft	0.24 ft		6:51	18:45
Tue 01	L Quar- ter	00:26	06:50	14:53	19:25		6:50	18:45
		00:02 ft	0.72 ft	-0.06 ft	0.21 ft			
Wed 02		00:53	07:23	15:33	20:01		6:50	18:45
		00:00 ft	0.77 ft	-0.09 ft	0.18 ft			
Thu 03		01:23	07:59	16:13	20:39		6:49	18:45
		-0.01 ft	0.81 ft	-0.10 ft	0.17 ft			
Fri 04		01:58	08:38	16:53	21:21		6:49	18:45
		-0.03 ft	0.83 ft	-0.11 ft	0.17 ft			
Sat 05		02:41	09:20	17:34	22:09		6:48	18:45
		-0.03 ft	0.82 ft	-0.11 ft	0.19 ft			
Sun 06		03:33	10:06	18:15	23:03		6:48	18:45
		-0.02 ft	0.79 ft	-0.10 ft	0.23 ft			
Mon 07		04:37	10:58	18:56			6:47	18:45
		00:01 ft	0.73 ft	-0.10 ft				

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A Garden? Good News For Just Do It Vegeterians

In Memory of Victor

February 14 1991 – July 15 2011

Veggie food, I'm crazy about it. Many times I am invited for dinner by vegetarians and I tell you what, it always tasted delicious. People have become very creative with veggie food, and today there are a lot of great recipes, so easy to do and make that you never miss any beef stew, chicken or fried fish for your dinner.

Nowadays this group of vegetarians has become larger for a lot of different reasons. That's why I want to devote this article to one of the most used vegetables in vegetarian recipes: the popular eggplant. With this vegetable one can make any type of dish. It doesn't matter what type of food you like. Maybe you go for Italian or you are crazy for American hamburgers, you can't live without spicy food or you like to be creative with baking in the oven. Well, for all of you, this eggplant can fulfill your personal taste.

When you look for a substitute for meat, the eggplant is one of the solutions. So I will give you a list of different kinds of recipes and you can find them on the internet.

Vegetarian Eggplant Recipes:

Eggplant with Tofu; Eggplant Sandwiches; Vegetarian Eggplant Moussaka (Greek); Tasty Fried Eggplant Balls; Roasted Eggplant in a French Roll with Feta Cheese; Italian Layered Eggplant Casserole; Curried Eggplant with Tomato and Basil; Eggplant Parmesan Casserole; Eggplant Lasagna; Spicy Eggplant; Baba Ghanoush (Middle Eastern dinner); Eggplant Dip; Eggplant Croquettes; Ratatouille Eggplant Bake; Eggplant Mixed Grill; Stuffed Eggplant; Roasted Eggplant; Eggplant Chutney; Eggplant Pizza; Pasta Melanzana; Layerd Eggplant Hamburger; Filled Eggplant with Tofu, Potato, Cheese, Baked in the Oven.

You have enough vegetarian cuisine try outs for this year I think.

Of course you want to know more about this great vegetable and how to grow it right here on Bonaire. Yes, this plant grows easily here!

For many years I have had eggplants in my garden. I always use the seeds from an old fruit, and by the time the current plants get old and the fruits get small and hard, I already have young plants coming up, and soon I have eggplant in my pot again. The great news is that no iguana or lizard loves it and it can stand the dry weather of Bonaire. The only enemy is the white fly and fungus but with the neem tea spray it stays away.

The eggplant is a strong plant which gives fruit for a long time. Three plants are enough for a family. Water is the only care they need.

More About the Eggplant

Eggplant or Aubergine is a species of nightshade, and related to the tomato and potato. The plant species has been cultivated in Southern and Eastern Asia since prehistory. The word "eggplant" is derived from the resemblance of the fruit to eggs. And the French "aubergine" is a diminutive of auberge, a kind of peach. Other names in other countries are: berehein on Bonaire; berenjena in Spain; beringela in Portuguese; brinjal in India, biringanya in Eastern Africa; garden egg; guinea squash; melongene.

Nutrition

While eggplants don't have an overwhelming supply of any one nutrient, they do contain an impressive array across the board of many vitamins and minerals, such as excellent amounts of fiber, folate, potassium and manganese, as well as vitamins C, K, and B6, phosphorus, copper, thiamin, niacin, magnesium, and pantothenic acid.

Allergies

There have been case reports of itchy skin or mouth, mild headache and stomach upset after handling or eating eggplant. Contact dermatitis from eggplant leaves and



Home-grown eggplant

allergies to eggplant flower pollen have also been reported. Individuals who are atopic (genetically predisposed to developing certain allergic hypersensitivity reactions) are more likely to have a reaction to eggplant which may be because eggplant is high in histamines.

Varieties

Different varieties of eggplants show diversity in forms and colors—purple, green, red, white and yellow. When eggplants turn yellow they are not good to eat. There are three variations: *Solanum melongena* var. *esculentum*, common eggplant, including white varieties with many cultivars; *Solanum melongena* var. *depressum* dwarf eggplant; and *Solanum melongena* var. *serpentium* snake eggplant.

Nice to know.

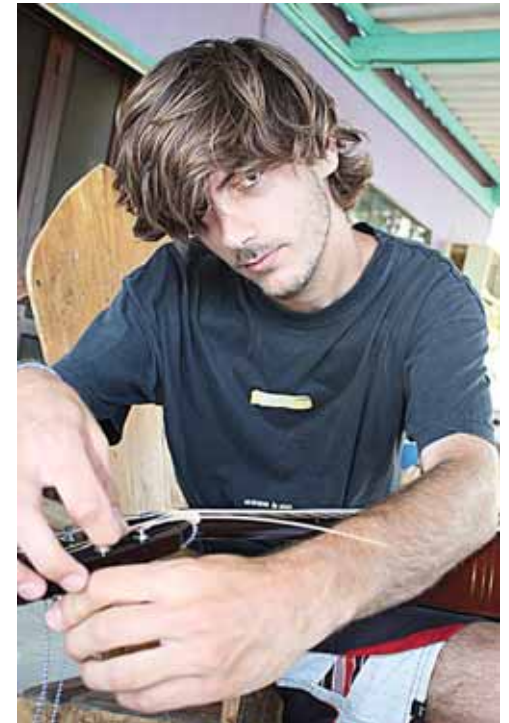
Top countries in eggplant production are China, India, Iran, Egypt and Turkey. In 2013, global production of eggplant was 49.5 million tons with 57% of output coming from China alone.

How to Plant Eggplant

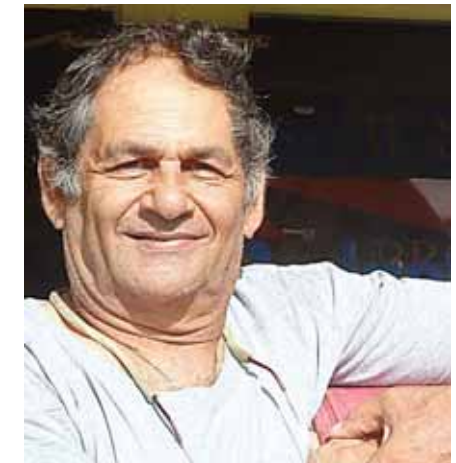
The young plants come from seeds. Spacing should be 45-60 cm between plants. Mulching helps conserve moisture and prevent weeds and fungal diseases. Flowers are relatively unattractive to bees and the first blossoms often do not set fruit. Hand pollination improves the set of the first blossoms. Flowers are complete, containing both female and male structures and may be self- or cross-pollinated.

Okay veggie friends, I guess you feel good with all this information. So go ahead, make your own veggie garden right here on Bonaire. Just do it!

■ Angliet, Nature lover



"His death made me able to survive
The toughest things in life." (jb)
We'll meet again. (Presumably)



Mateo 22:37. "Stima SEÑOR bo Dios ku henter bo kurason, i ku henter bo alma, i ku henter bo mente."

Mateo 7:12 "Trata otro hende den tur kos meskos ku bo ke pa nan trata bo."

Join in a brief ceremony to scatter the ashes of Michael Gaynor.

Location: Sand Dollar, platform of Green Parrot on Sunday, February 28, at 17:30 (5:30 PM)

There will be a POTLUCK supper following at International Bible Church

(IBC on Kaya Papago 104 behind Bon Bida, across from Empire Cinema). Please bring a dish to share (salad, casserole, chicken, sandwiches, cake, etc.). It can be dropped off at the IBC church before the ceremony Soft drinks and juices will be provided.

PARKING: Please park at International Bible Church, or in the Sunset Beach/Barf Reef parking lot on the west side of the traffic circle.

Please DO NOT park in the Sand Dollar property. Parking there is reserved for residents.

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 Industrija, **Second Saturday of the month,** 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

Sundays

•**Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken,

#	DAY	DATE	NAME	PAX	Line
Cruise Ship Schedule					
27	17-02-16	<i>Britania</i>	TBA	3600	P&O
28	18-02-16	<i>Zuiderdam</i>	1300-2300	1916	HAL
29	19-02-16	<i>Serenade of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	2490	Royal Caribbean
30	24-02-16	<i>Oosterdam</i>	0800-1800	2388	HAL
31	24-02-16	<i>Aida Diva</i>	0800-1800	2194	Aida
32	5-03-16	<i>Star Pride</i>	0700-2200	208	Windstar

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 **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 12stappenbonaire@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@echobridgebonaire.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

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-8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

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

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

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

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antrio-Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 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 ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Going on Now—Retrospective Exhibition of paintings of the late Ronald Verhoeven, Pakus di Tela, next to Telbo. Open every day except Sunday & Monday, 10am-5pm

Saturday, Feb. 20—Open House at Jong Bonaire, 5-7pm, Kaya Lib. Simón Bolívar 16 (phone 717-4303. More page 4

Feb. 22—March 4 —BIG Giftedness Retreat at Landhuis Wanapa. (Reporter Feb. 1-15)

Saturday, Feb. 27—Sunset Hike up Mt. Brandaris— Reserve 717-8444, email washington-park@stinapa.org \$10. Page 3

Sunday, Feb. 28 –Scattering of ashes of Michael Gaynor -Behind Sand Dollar, platform of the old Green Parrot restaurant, 5:30pm. More on page 15

Monday, Feb. 29—Echo Foundation will be hosting the first of four themed nature walks, "Magnificence of Bonaire's Trees." 4:30 pm. More on page 11.

Friday, Mar. 4— "World Premier Tasting" Event at Barrel Wine Bar & Boutique, 5pm-11pm. Try 6 reds, 6 whites. Unlimited tastes. Free snacks. \$25 per person

Saturday, Mar. 5—Ten Artists Show at La Cantina Restaurant

Sunday, Mar. 6 -Walkathon from White Slave Huts to Rincon. Start 5 am to benefit Special Olympics. Donation \$15 gets breakfast and T-Shirt.

Mondays, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28- CIEE Free Fish ID Courses— More on page 7



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BEAUTY

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ON and IN the WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems. 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

The Wine Barrel has one of the island's widest selection of wines and spirits at Bonaire's new "In Spot," the South Pier Mall. It's a classy bar/bistro in the evening and sells a wide selection of alcoholic beverages in the day. See ad on 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.

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.

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

ISABELLA

Isabella is the longest resident of the Animal Shelter's cat community. She has been with us since April 2013 and, in fact, was born at the Shelter when her pregnant mom gave birth a few days after arrival. Mom and siblings were adopted, but for some reason, as sweet and friendly as she is, she has been "passed over" when "shoppers" visit.

Shelter staffers cannot understand why, as Isabella is very friendly, affectionate and quite the little clown. She likes to show off her "fetching" abilities when visitors arrive, grabbing a cat toy and manipulating it into something "alive" so she can catch it. After her displays of hunting prowess, she loves to come and sit by their side for some cuddling. Isabella can track down and catch anything...she's so fast that even a fly doesn't have a chance! She would be an excellent mouser inside your house and would keep any house "pest" free. All Isabella asks for as reward for her abilities is some love and attention when she isn't busy working.

Isabella is a good sized female cat by Bonairean standards and has beautiful, intelligent golden eyes and the cutest black face markings. She is healthy, sterilized, vaccinated and has been waiting a long time for that forever home. If you would like an affectionate adult cat with some kitten playfulness and terrific hunting skills, please come and have a visit with Isabella. She and her Shelter companions welcome you to pass by Animal Shelter Bonaire Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 12 and 3-5 pm at Lagun Road 26, 717-4989. Visit their Facebook page at Animal Shelter Bonaire and check out the Cat Cam at www.bonairecatcam.com. ■ Jane Madden-Disko



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



Boarding, Pet Shop, Grooming (new)

The Animal Shelter Bonaire provides a clean, comfortable, fun, yet responsible environment for the homeless animals of Bonaire, as well as those dogs and cats that are here on vacation. The **Animal Shelter Boarding Kennels** caters to approximately 10 dogs and six cats, and we will expand with more kennels this year.

Each boarding animal must be fully vaccinated and treated against ticks and fleas before entering the boarding kennels. Proof of vaccinations is mandatory in order to protect your pet, as well as the other animals living in the facility.

The boarding kennels generates revenue in order to support the homeless pets living in our Shelter. Thanks to our boarding customers we are able to operate and help the homeless pets on Bonaire.

Our **Pet Shop** features items ranging from dog and cat collars, leashes, toys, and other items and enables our boarding customers to pick up last-minute items for their pets while staying with us. Our **Grooming** offers the opportunity for a bath and brush, tick or flea

treatment or even a haircut on the last day of your pet's stay. **This is also possible for non-boarding costumers.**

The Animal Shelter Boarding Kennel provides blankets, toys, feeds balanced food, administers medication if needed and has a very skilled veterinarian on call. You're also more than welcome to provide your own bedding, food and/or toys. Dogs that don't get along well with the other boarders can be socialized, trained and exercised in their own private yards.

Together, the Boarding Kennel, the Pet Store and Grooming, generate revenue to sustain the Animal Shelter. In essence, the animals with homes support the animals without homes. It's a virtuous circle!

If you would like to make a reservation for your dog or cat at the Animal Shelter Bonaire boarding kennel, grooming or buy an item at our pet shop, visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a. Phone 717-4989/ 701-4989 or e-mail: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire>. ■ Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson





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THE STARS HAVE IT

2nd Half, February 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You may have difficulties with someone who lives with you. You mustn't give too much to your children. If you take on too much, you will find your self in martyrdom. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Leave your checkbook and credit cards at home. You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Your relationship is undergoing some changes. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you go out with friends. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Don't expect anyone else to pay your bills for you. Don't forget family obligations. Your mate is going to want and need some attention. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance. You need to get involved in groups that offer physical activities. This may not be the day to get involved in risky joint financial ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Business or pleasure trips will be knowledgeable as well as highly successful. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Do things that involve children. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You'll be able to break bad habits if you put your mind to it. You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. You may find your mate somewhat perturbed. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Be diplomatic and honest, and that person will only be made to look bad. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Try to keep a low profile. Don't back down but don't ignite the situation. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Luck is with you. You must be careful not to ignore the needs of the youngsters in your family. Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Take time to deal with legal documents and the affairs of people who you may be indebted to. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) It's a good time for long awaited relationships to begin. The knowledge you have will enhance your reputation. Get out and have some fun. Travel will be on your mind, but you should be sure that you've got all your work up-to-date. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. You can have quite the romantic adventure if you take time to get to know your mate all over again. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Enlist coworkers in order to get the job done on time. There will be hidden matters that you may find disturbing. You may want to take a trip; however, before you do, make sure that your car is serviced properly. Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

HAPPY LEAP DAY

Every four years we get to experience a cultural and calendar phenomenon all caused by the **Earth's orbit** around the **Sun**. And although this event seems to happen every four years, sometimes we skip a year.

Plus we have a giant planet joining the regular cast of constellations for the end of this February.

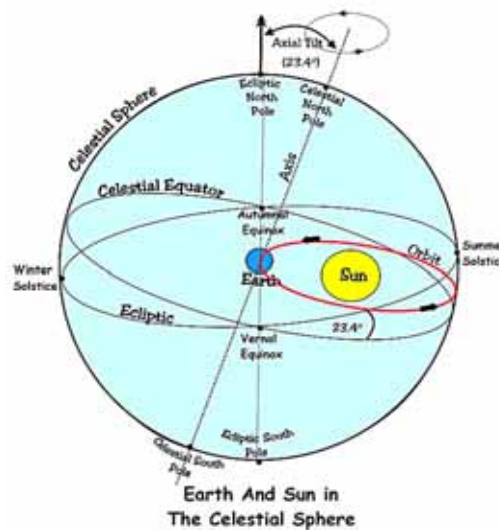
Did you know that if you went outside at midnight on your birthday every year, you'd see exactly the same star patterns? The planets and moon would all be in different positions each year, but the stars will appear in the same place. To ensure this, every four years we have to add one whole day to our calendar.

This is because the time it takes for the Earth to travel around the Sun doesn't exactly match our calendar year. As you know, it takes approximately 24 hours for the Earth to rotate once on its axis. That's one day. But a year is how long it takes for a planet to travel all the way around the Sun and return to the same spot. It takes Earth approximately 365 days, 6 hours, to travel around the Sun once. Over time, this extra six hours adds up and starts causing big problems for our calendar. After a few centuries, spring wouldn't start in March any more. So what do we do? Add extra time to the calendar.

And since we're off by 6 hours a year, every 4 years we'd be almost an entire day ahead of where we should be (according to our calendar). Since 6 hours each year for 4 years adds up to 24 hours, it was decided that the simplest way to fix things was to add an extra day to the calendar every 4 years.

Years when we do this are called **Leap Years** and the day which we add to our calendar count is called a **Leap Day**. Now where should we put it? Well February has the least number of days. So let's add it to February and we'll create February 29th. We traditionally experience a Leap Year in years that are evenly divisible by 4; like 2008, 2012 and 2016.

But wait, there's more! When a century ends, we skip a leap year. The exception is if the century ends on a year that is exactly divisible by 4. So 1800 and 1900 weren't



leap years, but 1600 and 2000 were leap years. Going forward in time, you'll notice that 2100, 2200 and 2300 won't have a Leap Day but 2400 will.

The reason the "end of century rule" was introduced is because saying the length of our orbit is 365 days and 6 hours is still a little inaccurate. The correction is too big. The 6 hours was actually rounded up from 5 hours, 49 minutes and 16 seconds. But eh... who's counting?

On any late-February night, right after dark, face south. And like every February sky, you'll find the three stars of **Orion the Hunter** halfway up in the sky, with his big dog's nose in the form of **Sirius the Dog Star**. But check out the huge planet gleaming in the sky this year.

That "star" is seriously bright! Anyway, when you turn and face east you'll see **Leo the Lion**. His head stars make a backward question mark and his rear end is that triangle pattern. Leo is always there in late February, telling me to flip my calendar to March.

But this year Leo is housing that visiting planet. Under Leo you can't miss **Jupiter**. It's so bright that it makes even Sirius look dull. And Jupiter is approaching its closest approach to the Earth for the year, so you'll be seeing a lot more of Jupiter in the coming months. So, seize your extra day this year... ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

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Lagoen, Lagoen Hill 61

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- freehold land (registered 4-E-2094)
- lot size: 9,705 sq.ft / 902 m²
- living area: 1,549 sq.ft / 144 m²

Asking price
US\$ 259,000
Buyers cost



Sunbelt  Realty

Barrel Wine Bar and Boutique

Don't Miss "The World Premier Tasting" Event on March 4, from 5 PM till 11 PM. Try 6 reds, 6 whites. Unlimited tastes. Free snacks

The newest, best, wine experience on Bonaire!

- Purchase over 100 different fine wines from all over the world!
- Enjoy a drink by the seaside ocean terrace
- Temperature controlled cellar
- Frequent Tastings
- Wine and cocktail workshops

Opening Times: Monday - Saturday
Boutique/Store: 10:00 - 18:00
Bar: 17:00 - 23:00



Contact us at: +599-777-7770 or email barrelbonaire@gmail.com