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he past weeks have seen several changes in key jobs on Bonaire.

*As previously announced, Hildegard Buitink stepped down as BES Island Chief of Police on March 1st. Because a new chief hasn't been named yet Jose Rosales, the current acting Police Chief KPCN, will act as Chief of Police until the arrival of a new Chief is appointed. A temporary reorganization of the police management has also been put in place until a new chief is named.

Chief Commissioner Simone Steendiik. (in photo at right) will join as Deputy Chief of Police for the interim period. Ms. Steendijk is a former Deputy Police Chief of the Oost- Brabant within the Na-

tional Police. She has extensive experience in the local area police care and the detective department.

Klaas de Jong will also join the force. Mr. de Jong has a lot of experience in the Caribbean, including as acting Chief of Police KPCN. Mr. de Jong will, on behalf of the acting Chief of Police, function as the person who can be approached for answers to difficult and frequently asked questions.

★Patricia Hassell, the popular current Director of the Bonaire prison (JICN), was asked by Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella to assist



him in conducting and supervising the "plan van aanpak" (plan of action) on St. Eustatius Ms Hassell will start her new RCN job on March 7, 2016. Wibo de Vries, Deputy Director JICN, has temporarily taken over as JICN Director.

*****The Directors of the (SGB) high school placed the school's top executive officer. Lydia Emerencia, on administrative leave last Wednesday.

The former Bonaire



Governor was appointed in August 2014 as interim CEO of SGB. Her Improvement Plan to elevate the various departments of the school to Dutch basic levels caused a lot of dissatisfaction and proved ineffective. Critics argued that polarization within the school increased and innovation and improvement were difficult. Beginning April 1 Frans van Efferink, previously interim director at the Gwendoline van Putten School on St. Eustatius, will take over.

Mrs. Emerencia, in a statement to the press, stated that the Board acted incorrectly. She has referred further actions to her lawyer.

The recently completed investigation of fraud, theft and corruption into the construction of the wind turbine farm and new power plant on Bonaire found no wrongdoing. Forensic accountants Mazars found the tender for the construction was not tampered with and no money went into the pockets of the directors of WEB. In contrast the report said Bonaire received a sustainable and reliable state of the art power plant that provides clean power at a cost that does not differ from that of Curaçao and Aruba. As one of the experts interviewed said, it was "a Class A system."

New additions to medical coverage on Bonaire were announced. Each insured person is now eligible for reimbursement of contraceptives (including pessaries, copper IUDs and hormone rods). The age limit of 21 years has been removed.

At-home dialysis coverage now includes the costs associated with home modifications as well as refurbishing. Also, other expenses directly related to home dialysis will be reimbursed.

New eye glasses can be obtained every two years for insured persons aged 18 and older. Annual replacement is available for insured persons younger than 18.

The Bonaire Government has commissioned PwC Dutch Caribbean to do research on what it takes to do business on Bonaire. "There is only one way to improve our welfare and that is through economic development. That takes investors," said Clark Abraham Commissioner of Economic Affairs. "An investigation into the 'cost of doing business' is important to understand facts of our strengths and weaknesses as well as the threats and opportunities that lie before us." The PwC consultants will gather the relevant data in the coming weeks and ask businesses about their current experiences. In mid-March, the results of the investigation will be available to all through the Chamber of Commerce and Department of Economic Affairs of the Government of Bonaire.

► The first stone was laid for a new garbage collection center in Bonaire by Commis sioner Bento Dirksz. The facility at the old landfill dump in

Lagoen will be used for large-scale trash separation and recycling activities, targeting carton, glass, tin cans, aluminum, rubber tires and used oil. A special oven for biomedical waste and animal cadavers is included in the plans as well. Local households will soon get a second trash bin for fruit, vegetable and garden waste that can be converted into compost.

Bonaire reported its first Zika virus infection several weeks ago, according to Dutch news sources. The Department of Public Health of the Public Entity detected one confirmed case, which they say was likely locally transmitted. Local health officials have advised the removal of potential mosquito breeding grounds, the wearing of protective clothing and the use of mosquito spray by pregnant women especially due to the risk to the unborn child.

An anti-mosquito spraying program is underway. Other islands in the Caribbean with confirmed Zika include Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, St. Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Barbados, Puerto Rico and Curacao.

As of Monday, February 22, Bonaireans were able to put coarse garden waste outside for pickup on their regular garbage collection day. Selibon will pick this up with their garbage truck. The aim is to ask people to look after their garden area and to throw away anything that can hold standing water so mosquitoes cannot lay eggs after a rain.

You can check your garden and around the area for old tires, buckets, plastic trays,

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from pg. 2) foam trays, cups, empty flower pots or trays, jars, bottles and capseverything that can hold water. Agave ("Century Plants") hold water in their bases so try to drain them. Call 717-8159 one day before the garbage truck visits to confirm your address.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reports that Bonaire's trade deficit grew by nearly 25% in 2015 to

\$184.5 mil-Caribbean Netherlands, trade defici lion. Imports a mile US dolla increased, while exports fell below the 2014 level. The value of 124 exported goods fell by nearly 1/3 relative to 2014, to 9.5 million US dollars. The value 2013 📖 2014 🞫 2015

of imports

on Bonaire grew to \$194 million. The value of goods imported in the last quarter of 2015 was \$53 million, the highest quarterly import value ever measured by Statistics Netherlands for Bonaire. This may be an indicator of growing affluence on Bonaire

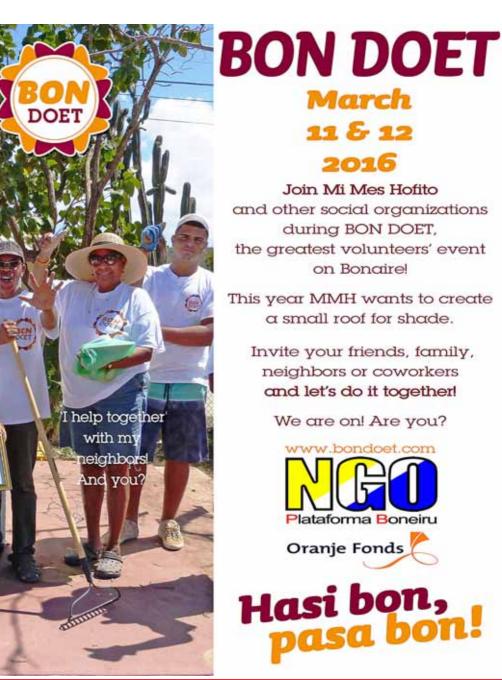
► In six months the inmates in Bonaire's downtown Kralendijk jail are scheduled to be transferred to the newly completed prison, the Judicial Institute Caribbean Netherlands (JICN), off the Lagoen Road. There is an unofficial move underway to turn the large, mostly reconstructed old jail into a downtown cultural center. The ground floor could house a museum, the second floor a complex of meeting rooms and the top floor a professional theatre including, exhibition spaces, practice areas for local musicians and a café. And how about a space for art exhibitions to replace the once very successful but now defunct

Kas di Arte?

▶ Representatives of the governments of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao met in Bonaire last week to talk about a fast ferry service between the islands. The meeting was intended to identify the conditions necessary to achieve an economically viable fast ferry between the islands. No major governance or regulatory problems were identified. In May there will be a followup meeting.

► The selling price of residential dwellings in Bonaire decreased in 2015 by almost 7% compared to the previous year, reported the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) last month. In 2015, 150 homes were sold in Bonaire, which is slightly fewer than in 2014 when 156 dwellings were exchanged. For several years, the annual sales of homes has been slightly over 150, with a peak of 168 sold in 2013.

Selling prices remained more or less the same in 2013 and 2014. (Continued on page 7)





Private access to the beach and dive site Andrea

· Unobstructed ocean views



Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016

On The Island Since... 2002 and 2005 – Bob Bartikowski and Molly Kearney



Molly Kearney and Bob Bartikowski

66 came here first in 2001," *Bob says*, "to visit my smart older brother who'd retied here at 50. Then, six months later - after having been here for a year – he passed away suddenly. And everybody said 'that goes to show you that life is too short.' So I came here to help Wendy, his wife, with the funeral arrangements and a wake for him here. Then I decided I wanted to stay.

I was living in Minnesota. It was the middle of winter and I'd taken the 'life is too short' to heart. Four months later I moved down and opened a RE/MAX franchise. I'd worked as an agent in Minnesota with RE/MAX so that's why it was easy. I like selling real estate and I like the brand and I thought it would help to start the business. Everybody told me they needed an American real estate broker on the island and I figured I would make enough money to pay my bar tab at the Mona Lisa and it worked out well.

The first person I hired spoke flawless English and Dutch, and as all the legal paperwork was in Dutch I knew I had to have somebody who spoke Dutch. I hired a good office manager and very good employees. Then we started in September 2003. Now its 13 years later.

Six months after we'd started I began doing property management as well. I got in just as the market started to go off; 2004 -2007 was the top of the market. Corine at Sunbelt and I are still here after 12 years. All the other firms have changed owners.

Most of the time I was working and scuba diving and enjoying the warm weather. The first house I rented was at the edge of the kunuku in bario Mexico, a little wooden house with a big porch overlooking Herbert de Jongh's house."

Molly continues: "I had been in corporate retail for the last 20-something years. My team would determine how many units of inventory to purchase for the clients;

"that when she leaves a job she first goes on vacation, because you never know when it's possible again once you have a new job."

"Yes," Molly laughs. "I left Victoria's Secret and took a tall-ship sail trip; 50 cabins, very casual. It took me from Aruba to Curacao and Bonaire. On Bonaire I wanted to stay longer and so, when I saw the captain in Kaya Grandi, I asked him if I could jump ship and he said yes, you just have to fill out the paperwork, and I did. Then I walked to Divi Flamingo and booked a hotel room and made arrangements to fly back to Aruba in four days. And on that fateful first night," she laughs,

"In 2008 I moved my store to Les Galleries Shopping Mall and I am still there," Molly says. "Because of my experience in purchasing I keep the merchandise selection fresh. And actually once a year I do a progressive mark down bikini sale. The final week of that month is \$5 for the top and \$5 for the bottom and people go crazy! It's really fun, everybody asks for it! And then I make space for the new collection. I'm happy and I'm proud of it! I really enjoy it and I'm very fortunate to have a strong local following."

"It's a small town and if you don't treat people right it will come back to you."

"I walked into City Café and met Bob. There was a connection right away. But what to do? He lived here and I was at a turning point in my life. Those four days we saw each other a lot, but I was cautious; nothing moved too fast.

Back in the States I was in denial according to my friends. As I told them I wanted to open a retail store on Bonaire, they knew there was another attraction! So I came here to stay for a month and test all the waters - so to speak - and went back. I actually was looking for a job in the States and got an offer from Home Depot, but I turned it down.

Bob and I were long distance dating, then I moved here six months later. We became a couple and another six months

"When Molly first opened," Bob says, "everybody assumed it was my shop, but I told everyone, 'No, it's hers! And when the real estate market became very quiet around 2008-2009 it was the Outlet Mol -Molly - who paid the bills!"

"One has to be creative and smart sometimes," Molly says. "At a certain time in my life I wanted to go back to school to get my Master's in Business. I didn't have the money, so I tried out and got on the 'Wheel of Fortune TV show,' and I won a Chevy Corvette, which I sold to fund my further education. I guess there's always a way! We're both really proud to support each other in our personal life, but also in each other's businesses. We are a good team! At home he's the chef and I'm the chopper! So, to go back where we started, we were dating and things were going well and in 2007 Bob proposed. We went to Littman's to buy the ring, then we got married in August in our hometown of Minneapolis where we're both from. Both of us come from large families so it was easier to marry there so everybody could attend. When we came back from the wed-ding we brought Radley with us, a Labrador puppy, who's now eight. Three years Greta Kooistra



Radley and Scout... with Molly and Bob

ago we got Scout. Both names are characters in To Kill a Mockingbird, my favorite book.

Two years ago we were renting this house from a client of Bob's. When the client decided to sell it we were fortunate enough to buy it. I'm married to a real estate broker and I should be able to see 50 houses before I buy one, but then Bob said 'Do you want to move?' I answered 'Is it a good deal?' and Bob said 'Yes!' Now we're happy here!" "We're saving for a pool," Bob laughs, "but we tend to chose travel over a pool. Both of us love to travel. We went to South Africa on our honeymoon and we've been to Ecuador and to all the European capitals. It's quiet here, so we like the variety of big cities. Some people have a saving account; we have a travel fund.

I started the business with a long term vision and I treat people honestly, buyers and sellers, trying to find a deal that makes both parties happy. It's a small town and if you don't treat people right it will come back to you. 'We treat you like you would treat you.' That's what the commercial says. If you do that, the business takes care of itself. I've been here long enough and just like with a retail shop, you need to have local customers. We like to spend our money on Bonaire and we like other people to do the same; we're all for that."

"For me," Molly says, "the best part of the island is the pace, the quality of life and the people. In the States we had big careers, we had stuff, and we had money, but with it comes a price." "Here you have a stuff-free life' Bob grins "In the States, the first thing when you meet someone new is to ask, 'What do you do?' Here, nobody ever asked what I did. People don't care whether you have a nickel in your pocket or you're the queen of England. And then, most of the time you can't tell the difference! I like it here: I like that it's small and the good news is that everybody knows you and the bad news is that everybody knows you!"

inventory forecasting management for the merchandise in the catalogs. So, when you place an order online and it's in stock, then my team did a good job. That was kind of my specialty. It's a very specific niche but if it's done correctly it can make a business successful. I did the Disney catalog and just before I came here, the Victoria's Secret catalog. I was living in Columbus, Ohio, where I'd moved because of the job."

"Molly has a philosophy," Bob says,

later I opened my shop, Outlet Mol. I only

had that one niche of experience, so I had to learn the balance of everything else that comes with owning a retail store. I started for real upstairs from the Botica on Kaya Grandi, and with the connections from my job for Victoria's Secret I was able to purchase their end-of-season overstock bikinis. Good quality at a reasonable price. It was successful right away!" "Last season's style is no problem on Bonaire," Bob says with a wink.

Story & photos by



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Picture Yourself With The Reporter in **Vancouver, British Columbia**



Grace T. writes, "Still sporting the tan I got from the great sunshine in Bonaire, this is a picture of me embracing winter back home in Canada with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* while enjoying a chilly snowshoeing trip.

The photo was taken on Cypress Mountain Provincial Park in North Vancouver, British Columbia. Here's a little more info:

Cypress Mountain was the official freestyle skiing and snowboarding venue for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Popular winter activities on the mountain include downhill skiing and snowboarding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and tubing. The mountain received its first (logging) road in 1870. Today, the mountain retains some of the largest and oldest recorded trees for the species in BC. Many of the park's yellow-cedars (or yellow-cypress-fir, which the park is named after) are well over 1000 years old.

I'm a windsurfer, which was the reason I first came to Bonaire. I love being in Bonaire and can't wait to be back this year!"

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at **The Tokyo Tower, Japan**

Caroline Gamache and Vincent Meunier, owners of Bonaire's Coral Paradise Resort were in Tokyo, Japan last November and took those pictures for you. At the Tokyo Tower to be exact.

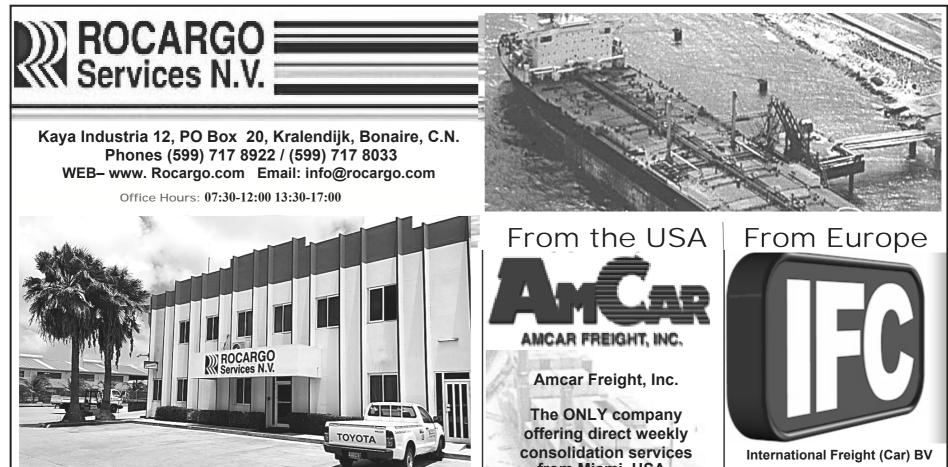
Tokyo Tower (東京タワー Tōkyō tawā?) is a communications and observation tower located in the Shiba-koen district of Minato, Tokyo, Japan. At 332.9 metres (1,092 ft), it is the second-tallest structure in Japan. The structure is an Eiffel Tower-inspired lattice tower.

It was built in 1958. Over 150 million people have visited the tower since its opening. The two-story Main Observatory is located at 150 metres (490 ft), while the smaller Special Observatory reaches a height of 249.6 metres (819 ft).

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 .■





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Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016

Wonders of Nature?

Every day I walk my dogs in the mundi. And every day nature looks different. I never get bored. Unfortunately there is more to see than pure nature in the mundi. 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.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS



T wo silver harps and a beautifully shining soccer ball seduce me to get off the track on one of my many walks. I enjoy a happy meeting with foreign objects, this time three glorious trophies. Along the side of the road, between garden waste I see them twin-

kling in the sun. Wow, it must feel good when you win something like that. I can't help to get closer and feel the need to grab them to participate in the feeling of victory. I brace myself to keep them all above my head and speak a word of thanks. My biceps are tightened and I pull my abs to protect my back. However, I lose my balance and fall into the garden waste while trying to lift them. The trophies are not made of heavy precious metal but of lightweight plastic. What a fake! How I've been fooled. My whole mood changes, the winning feeling turns to the feeling of failure, the feeling of being a complete zero. Fobbed with such a dud when you've shown how well you can sing and play football. It's a shame.

Probably the person who discarded the three prizes in the mondi had the same feeling. Or not? I see the trophies were won in 1992 and 1994. Would you need 22 to 24 years before you convert deception into action? I can't believe that. Perhaps the winner (we'll call him for our convenience Raul), was initially happy with his prizes and put them in a display case. From 1992 to 1994, life was smiling at him and he only had to choose between a career as a professional football player or a famous singer. But Raul thought he had done enough for the time being. Over 20 years later, he looks innocently and with pride at his display case, where nothing has changed. Suddenly he groans, as he is stung by a razorsharp sense of reality. With 40 kilos of weight more and a voice that sounds like a duster due to his lifestyle, he will never have a chance in the world of sports or entertainment. He looks at the display cabinet and the confrontation with his talents that he has not used becomes too much. He picks up the trophies and is going for a ride to throw them away. That gives some relief, but not for long. Here is a message for Raul, or anyone else who has thrown the trophies out in the mondi. If you regret your action, you can come and collect the items. I took them home, because I felt that talents and good memories should not be

Photo & Story by Justine Verschoor



discarded.

More US-Bonaire Flights



A irlift, airlift, airlift is the mantra of those wanting more stay-over tourists on Bonaire. They have received the good news that there will be no seasonal hiatuses of airlift from the USA this year both Delta and United Airlines will operate at least one non-stop flight per week from each gateway (ATL, EWR, HOU) throughout the year.

In summary:

• The second Houston flight has been cancelled (only one per week this year).

- There will be a second Newark flight from June 12 to August 14.
- Delta has significantly increased lift from Atlanta.

• During peak season there will be three flights a week (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday); in the spring and summer there will be two flights a week (Saturday and Sunday); in September, October and December there will be one fight per week (Saturday). See details below. \blacksquare *G.D.*

2016 USA - BONAIRE NON-STOP FLIGHTS

		DAYS OF OPERATION	FLIGHT TIMES			
<u>UNITI</u>	ED AIRLINES					
Houston Connection -All 2016						
IAH	BON	Saturday	1300-1940			
BON	IAH	Sunday	0830-2330			
	Newark Connec	tion - February 06, 2016 – J	une 11, 2016			
EWR	BON	Saturday	0855-1332			
BON	EWR	Saturday	1435-1929			
i	Two Newark Con	nections- June 12, 2016 – A	August 14, 2016			
EWR	BON	Saturday	0855-1332			
BON	EWR	Saturday	1435-1929			
EWR	BON	Sunday	0900-1445			
BON	EWR	Sunday	1445-1950			
İ	Newark Connecti	on - August 20, 2016 – Dece	mber 31, 2016			
EWR	BON	Saturday	0900-1445			
BON	EWR	Saturday	1435-1950			
DELT	A AIRLINES	-				
li 1	Two Atlanta connec	tions- February 06, 2016 – F	ebruary 14, 2016			
ATL	BON	Saturday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Saturday	1542-1905			
ATL	BON	Sunday 0945-144				
BON	ATL	Sunday	1542-1905			
	Delta Airlines Continued:					
	Three Atlanta conn	ections- February 16, 2016 -				
ATL	BON	Saturday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Saturday	1542-1905			
ATL	BON	Sunday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Sunday	1542-1905			
I ATL	BON	Tuesday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Tuesday	1542-1905			
	Two Atlanta connections - April 2, 2016 – August 28, 2016					
ATL	BON	Saturday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Saturday	1542-1905			
I ATL	BON	Sunday	0945-1445			
BON	ATL	Sunday	1542-1905			
	One Atlanta conner	tion Sontombor 2 2016	Databar 20 2016			

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One Atlanta connection - September 3, 2016 – October 29, 2016 BON Saturday 0945-1445 ATL Saturday 1542-1905 Two Atlanta connections - November 5, 2016 – November 27, 2016 0945-1445 BON Saturday 1542-1905 ATL Saturday Sunday BON 0945-1445 ATL Sunday 1542-1905 One Atlanta connection - December 3, 2016 - December 31, 2016 BON Saturday 0945-1445 BON Saturday 1542-1905 ATL

▲ Cut out and save ▲

Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016



This is a column written by J@n Brouwer about useful gadgets for sale on Bonaire. This is the ninth article in a row of 100.

LEATHERMAN: A TREAD AHEAD AGAIN

Bonaire/Playa -

he Tread. I had not heard about it at all but I had read about it a lot, and it's available at Budget Marine. The Tread is a multifunctional tool you wear as a bracelet- the first multi tool you can wear and which is allowed in the passenger's compartment of an airplane as the tool is not equipped with a life threatening knife. "Tread" means something like "step." In this case Leatherman seems to be a step ahead in time and of competitors as, as far as I know, this is the only wearable multi tool and bracelet in one. The tread is available in two models: a shiny and a flat black stainless version. I selected the flat black version for the long term test. The shiny tool is made of 17-4 stainless steel, as the flat black version is treated with a coating of DLC (a layer of diamond-like carbon/jb). The type of stainless steel used for the bracelet is slightly softer than the material used for the other multi tools and knives. The Leatherman looks cool and is cold.

As the Budget Marine store is air conditioned the tool had to adapt to the tropical temperatures of the island of Bonaire and to the temperature of my body. Soon the three of us were more or less equal. I wonder how those Oregonians get along

with a freezing cold tool around their wrist during winter time! Somewhere I read the tool has a weight of 168 grams, which is almost six ounces. And in my opinion that is quite heavy. That evening I went to bed with the bracelet around my wrist and I fell asleep with it. It took me about a night and a day to get used to it and then, bit by bit, the device became more and more part of me, as more creatures can do.

The Leatherman Tread has a circumference of 8.56" or 21,74 centimeters. Band is 1.2" or 3,05 centimeters. The Tread contains 29 tools, among them a variety of flat screwdrivers and Philips screwdrivers, a bunch of box wrenches and hex drives or allen keys. There is a 1/4" socket adapter and a bottle opener. It is link #4 from the bracelet that intrigues me most: a cutting hook to cut, for instance, the safety belt of a car; a carbide glass breaker to break, for instance, the window of your car when you are trapped inside or when you trapped your key inside. And: a SIM-card pick, to remove a SIM-card (Subscriber Identity Modulecard/jb) from your telephone or digital camera. Then the multi tool is fully adjustable to your wishes or the size of your wrist, by simply adding or removing one or more of the nine links. Eight links have the size of 1/2" as one link, the link with "Leatherman" stamped in it, measures ¹/₄". All links are connected with shackles and mounted with special bolts you can loosen and tighten with a screwdriver, an American cent or a dime. Leatherman prefers the one cent coin as this coin supplies more tread (sic!) or contact, compared to the dime.

Timothy Leatherman and his friend from college, Steve Berliner, founded the Leatherman Tool Group in Portland, Oregon, USA. In that same year they



launched their first multi tool, known as the PST (Pocket Survival Tool/*jb*). In 1975 Timothy and his wife traveled to Europe and the Middle East. Their \$300 Italian-made FIAT car kept breaking down and for most jobs Tim used his Boy Scout knife. This experience led to the development of the PST.

The Leatherman Tread is a very cool and useful item. The tool looks good and appears to be very handy for bikers and cyclists. The screwdrivers and hex drives are made for the job. Hopefully the owner of the Tread never has to use the cutter for the life belt or the carbide glass breaker to break a window. A bottle opener appears to be handy all over the world! The future will tell us about the layer of diamond like carbon (DLC) which gives the flat black version of the wearable multi tool its cool appearance.

Leatherman's new wearable multi tool is not that cheap, as quality made tools never are. The

stainless steel shiny version costs \$193.60. The flat black tool is priced \$145.20.

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) More than 85% of the 18,905 people on Bonaire live in a (stand-alone) home. The CBS carried out the analysis on the request of the Caribbean Netherlands Tax Office.

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) will organize the Bonaire Cuisine Months program again this year in May and June when you may enjoy two months of specials. The program was designed to showcase the outstanding culinary treasures that Bonaire offers to tourists as well as locals.

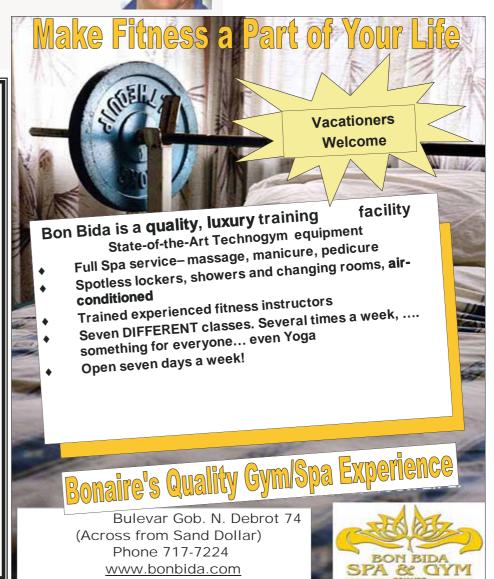
Participating restaurants will offer customized promotions throughout May and June including prix-fixe menus, signature cocktails and happy hour specials. All restaurants are invited to participate in the Bonaire Cuisine Months program. Contact TCB at 717 8322 or send an email to marketing@tourismbonaire.com

Put Sunday, April 3, on your calendar. It's the 38th annual Kontest di Fli (Kite Contest), from 8 am to 8 pm. Enter an original kite yourself or come enjoy seeing amazing kites. Contest for biggest, smallest, strangest, etc. Fun for the whole family. Food, drinks, music. At the ball field behind Kooyman. Sign up at Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi, telephone 717-6586.

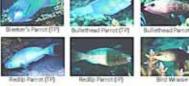
Our Bonaire Masters Swimmers (25 years and older) will compete at the European Masters Championships from May 25th until May 29th 2016 in London, the United Kingdom More in upcoming issues.

► Global Solar joins the family of *Reporter* advertisers in this edition (see ad on next page). Solar power is more affordable than fossil fuel power.

► The "Did You Know" column returns to the pages of *The Reporter* in this issue. It's powered by STINAPA this time. See page G./L.D.









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

Introduction to REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation). basic fish id techniques, tools and terminology

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

hat's a lot of fish (FREE)! Ses- nice underwater pictures and video sions are led by visiting REEF clips. 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 any-Everyone is welcome. one who just wants to look at some

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

Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016



Bonaire/Kralendijk – David Lauffer, son of the Antillean writer Pierre Lauffer (1920-1981), owns Kralendijk Radiator and Auto parts and is the proud owner of a rotary engine-powered Datsun 1200 pickup, built in 1987. A rotary engine powered Nissan pickup? Yes, a rotary engine powered pick up.

David Lauffer is from Curacao where there is a Mazda dealer. Mazda (which is Japanese for God of Light./jb) produced a variety of rotary engines. Then, one day, David decided to construct his own car, using the body of a Datsun This is the 137th in a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n (wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels". Up to at least 200 articles!



Marissa Lake with the Datsun

pickup and the rotary engine of a Mazda RX7 (1979-1985). It was not that easy and it took him a long time to spoon the engine and the five-speed gearbox into the body. He completely changed the front drive train for a Toyota one, and he added an American made Ford 9" rear axle and differential to distribute all the power produced by the rotary engine to the rear wheels.

The sticker on the front window says, "Tool Car," and in the rear of the pickup there is, indeed, a huge aluminum-made tool box. But in fact this is a racing car or a dragster, able to cover a quarter of a mile in almost less than no time. In the cramped cockpit a variety of "Cobalt" gauges inform the driver about oil pressure, boost pressure, revs per minute. A light, mounted in the left hand corner of the dash board flashes when it is the right time for the driver to shift up. This saves time and is more efficient as the driver has to look forward and as there is almost no time to look at the rev counter.

Every time David Lauffer starts the rotary engine of his tiny metallic blue sprayed pick up the exhaust produces a howling sound. This sound reminds me of a high revving two-stroke but it is different, as there are no strokes... This is a Wankel engine with a more or less triangular shaped rotor in its heart.

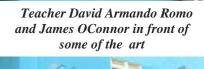
(Continued on page 14)



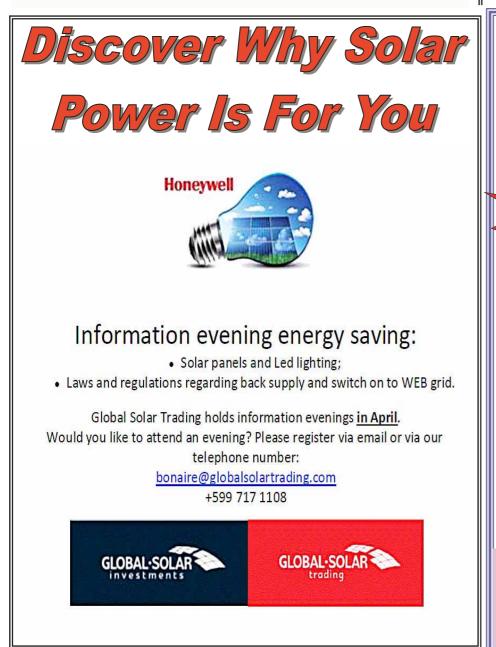
Romo organized an art pro-

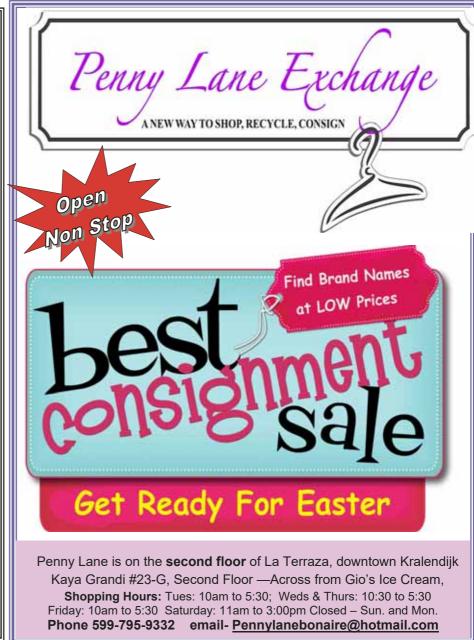
Romo, organized an art project to decorate the walls of the school. Helping him were two American volunteers from a visiting yacht who provided financial support and the photos for this story: Vikki OConnor was assistant and photographer and James OConnor was the art instructor. Over two days (February 18 and 19) about 45 of the school's children participated in making a mural of Bonaire's underwater life in colored chalk.

Story by James OConnor; photos by Vikki OConnor









Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016

Wine Barrel Premier

S ome 108 eager wine aficionados assembled on Friday evening, March 4, to partake in Bonaire's Wine Bar Barrel International Wine Premier al fresco on the Barrel's spacious deck overlooking the Harbor. It was a full house.



Deepak and Rajiv Daryanani

Rajiv Daryanani, owner of Barrel and international wine savant, tended bar himself, while his father, Deepak, welcomed us all.

Chaperoned by a purple-skied sunset, a convivial crowd and a bar full of vino, I felt right at home. What a job, being a reporter at wine events! Well, somebody's got to do it.

Immediately upon entry, hubby Bob and I made a beeline for the well-stocked wine buffet. We began with an Italian Pinot Grigio, a 2014 Blush. We both admired the light, crispy and dry style of the wine, common descriptors of a Pinot. These characteristics were complemented with lemony notes and a blossomy aroma. Bob later dubbed it the "surprise hit of the night," and that's from a guy who normally steers clear of blush wines. We depleted our delicious wine in no time, so I sent the hub out for more.

What a great deal: six reds and six whites to taste and snacks to boot -- all for \$25 p.p.!

I commented on the ugly commercial containers surrounding the Barrel's lovely harbor patio. Rajiv's take on it was that these beasts offered a new and interesting industrial background. Nobody seemed to mind it and besides, by 7 pm, an obliging harbormaster had removed the view-blocking containers altogether, unveiling Bonaire's Harbor in its entire splendor.

After having imbibed at least six mini glasses each, we figured it was time to hit the pockmarked road home -- but not before we pleaded with Rajiv to organize more of these wine events. "It's my intention to first arrange monthly, then weekly wine tastings at Barrel," affirmed the owner. So long as I get to report on these events, I'm all for it. Story & photo by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



/ e regret to report the passing of Angelina Emiliana Beukenboom-Rijna, also known as Sjon Lina. She was born June 30, 1927, and passed away on February 26, 2016. We extend heartfelt condolences to her children: Anneline Beukenboom, Robby Beukenboom and partner, Elsmarie Beukenboom and Charlotte Beukenboom as well as to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Ku sra. Shon Lina sosegá na Pas



At the Bonaire Duodero's Saturday Marshe di Playa at Jong Bonaire some of the goat skin students showed their wares. Left: instructor Nicolette Zwartkruis and student Siagnée Evertz



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Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016



ot everyone is afraid of bees. Some people want bees to sting them! Although some cultures have known this for ages, many modern doctors and researchers are realizing that the venom from bee stings may have wideranging benefits. Bee

venom is particularly effective in treating rheumatoid arthritis (a disease that causes pain and swelling in the joints). Some people go to doctors who use live bees to get relief from their arthritis, but there are treatments that are more acceptable to some, where the venom has been collected and is given to people as an injection. Bee venom is being used to treat all sorts of medical problems, including nerve pain, multiple sclerosis, reducing the allergic reaction of people who are allergic to bee stings, etc. One of the toxins in bee venom, melittin, kills HIV cells and scientists hope that it can be used to prevent HIV. If you love bees for their honey, perhaps you'll love them even more for their venom!

Bee populations are declining worldwide, mostly as a result of pesticides. Now, more



than ever, we need to protect these important pollinators. If you have garden pests, try using natural pesticides such as lemon, cloves, garlic, dish soap, cayenne pepper, etc.

On March 11th, as part of BON DOET, STINAPA invites volunteers to help improve an apiary/bee house and plant native trees around the bee site - visit www.bondoet.com and search STINAPA for more info.

CAUTION – bee stings can be deadly for those who are allergic! Please don't attempt live bee sting therapy without the supervision of a medical professional!

Caren Eckrich, Biologist.



Adopt-A-N est

Promote your company and save Bonaire's endangered sea turtles.

n 2015, STCB launched a pilot project called

"Adopt-A-Nest," offering local companies the opportunity to adopt seven sea turtle nests. The project was a big success and helped 693 baby turtles safely make it to the sea. Now they are expanding the program.

As part of their 25th anniversary observance, STCB has set aside 25 sea turtle nests for adoption by local businesses. Each company that adopts a nest will help STCB to protect the turtles. Protecting a nest might mean relocating nests to protect eggs from drowning when water floods a nest; releasing newborn turtles that become trapped underground during hatching; and supporting the volunteer Beachkeepers program.

STCB volunteers Hans and Jannie Koning have designed a two-meter high "Nest Barometer" which will be displayed outside the office at #53 Kaya Korona, Antriol, keeping a tally of the number of nests that have been adopted whilst promoting



Ten nests have already been adopted by: Blue Jay Holding Bonaire B.V., Mangrove Information Center, Piet Boon Bonaire, Foundation Club Roomer, Cargill Salt Bonaire B.V., Maduro & Curiel's Bank Bonaire N.V., Bonaire Office Systems, Dive Friends Bonaire and Gaia Productions N.V. With only 15 nests left now there is still a chance to join this innovative program by sending an email to

cepa@bonaireturtles.org. STCB advises companies to be quick, because first come, first served! For more information have a look at their updated website www.bonaireturtles.org.
Press

release/G.D.







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Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean



S pecial Olympics Bonaire organized its 14th annual Walk-a-Thon for Sunday, March 6, starting at 5 am *sharp* at Bonaire's White Slave Huts (or at other self-selected locations) to raise funds for our special athletes, making possible their participation in competitions worldwide. Hundreds of Bonaireans, most of them sporting white Special Olympics T-shirts, thronged through the early-morning darkness to join this amazing event in support of our Special Athletes. They walked, cycled, jogged, stepped, skate boarded, fevered or tried some combination of it all, the whole 33 km (or maybe just a part of it) from the starting mark well south of Kralendijk all the way to Rincon.

Sunday's participants commemorated the slave walks of over a century ago and well before that, though the original walkers surely didn't enjoy those original hikes quite so much, their only option being to hike those 30something kilometers in the hot sun, twice a week. It would take them up to seven hours, back and forth between their homes in Rincon to the saltpans at White Slave.

At 5 am, I was surprised to see loads of happy, young faces of the hiking, running and cycling enthusiasts. My beauty sleep that night had lasted only three hours, so I felt a bit grumpier than the happy occasion requires. However, the buoyant crowd cheered me up and got me going. When the start sign was given, we all sped away; well, actually, at least attempts were made to do just that. Right away forward motion all but stopped and, in the congestion, a few fast and furious youngsters kissed the pavement. Amazingly, no one was hurt.

Our first stop in Belnem welcomed us with water and watermelon. How nice and thoughtful! In a matter of 30 minutes, Kaya International was brimming with runners and bikers, while the walkers walked their walk more slowly and maybe more carefully as well. I noticed that the cyclists (400something) fairly quickly overwhelmed the walkers and hikers (200-ish) in numbers.

It was eerie, feeling our way in the dark on deserted streets, especially in Playa. Pretty soon, most of the large huddles dispersed, and smaller groups continued on together. Occasionally a lone runner, a cyclist or even a fevering youth would pass. We "Bon Dia"-ed each other in these passings, happy to see the respect for each other while participating in this event.

Our little posse, ahead for a while, paused while drinking and draining at the Hato circle. Pretty soon, we caught up with various small groups and headed towards Hilltop, where we soon came upon another water and fruit station. From there we headed uphill to Karpata. An adult-themed station awaited us with choices such as sodas, fruits, soup, bread, beer and hard liquor. No wonder most of us decided to take a well-deserved break. I did, and even inhaled some greenish-looking energizer. As a reporter, you have to try it all. Boy, that sucker energized me! From there it was smooth sailing to Goto.

Most bikers decided to take the road uphill right after Karpata, heading directly to Rincon, but we didn't care for that long, sloping hill. Instead, we opted for the tranquility and the flamingoes of Goto Meer, and the more challenging (did I mention, steep) Para Mira hill just before reaching Rincon.

We arrived in Rincon, by the Catholic Church about 8:30 am, where we were treated to a hearty breakfast of soup, sandwiches with tuna and beet salad and an apple for dessert. By then, most cyclists had arrived and even some of the runners as well. One runner had started out from Belnem and managed to run all the way to Rincon! Another, a young girl, had used her scooter as transportation. Each participant of the Walk-a-thon received a certificate. This event deserves an A+ for organization and fun!

Bonaire's slave era, commemorated by Sunday's Walk-a-Thon, began in the 1600s, when African slaves were forced to work on plantations up North on the island during the rainy season, then to harvest salt from the Southern salt flats during the dry months.

Salt was critical to preserving food, since refrigeration was not a possibility in those days. The slaves lived in Rincon, but when working the saltpans, they had to walk every Monday morning from Rincon to the Southern ponds, where they "slaved" the week away, while sleeping alfresco at night. Come Saturday morning, it was time for the trek home to Rincon. It wasn't until 1850 that the slaves received more appropriate shelter in the form of the current white-washed huts. These were - and remain -- tiny dwellings with even tinier entrances, where a man couldn't stand tall. Supposedly they could accommodate up to six workers. Nowadays, the slave huts have been restored and stand there as a harsh symbol of Bonaire's repressive colonial era. Slavery was abolished in 1863. It meant the tem-



friend along the route



Good friends Rudsel Leito and Boi Antoin at Hilltop rest stop.



Elizabeth Wigny and Delno Tromp were the founders of the Walkathon E Start



porary halt of the salt industry but also, more importantly, the end of exploitation of human beings. That was then; now, the 14th Walk-a-thon commemorates, just like the 13 Walk-a-thons before, these lengthy slave pilgrimages from home to work and back. Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour; photos by Laura DeSalvo



900 tickets sold. Most ever.

Fastest walker: Nazario Alberto

Fastest biker: Batista-Peña

Hensley participates in all Walk-a-thons 100

Page 11



KID'S COLLEGE ON BONAIRE (Part Two of two)

KID'S COLLEGE:

A new way of assisting students who struggle in their first three years of HAVO/ VWO (higher level learning) or during their four years of MAVO and VMBO (lower level learning), with a focus on homework guidance and improving Dutch language skills. The student's personality, abilities, motivation and needs are at the center of learning.

All kids want to learn!" That's quite a bold statement, but not so according to John van 't Hof, cofounder of teacher there. They became a couple and Kid's College. He explains: "Kids just need to learn how to learn. The problem here on Bonaire is that they don't know how to research, how to read, how to study vocabulary, how to create a book collage and so on. mom approached her for help with her We, as educators, need to provide them with the right tools in order to stimulate their natural desire to learn."

Brenda Brouwer, the other cofounder of Kid's College, adds, "First of all, it's important to find a way to connect with each pupil's environment; show interest in their personalities, hobbies and other interests. Teaching is not only providing information about subject matters. What's most important is to build up a pupil's confidence and motivation."

Brenda and John met at SGB (Scholengemeenschap Bonaire), our local high school) where John formerly served as principal while Brenda was an English



adopted a young local boy. At that point, Brenda decided to take a break from teaching at SGB so that she could spend time instructing their child. Not long after, a local school-aged children to improve their English skills. Brenda didn't have to think twice. She agreed immediately. That was the informal beginning of their after-school program for Bonaire's school children that she and John had already begun to discuss. They formally opened Kid's College in October 2015.

Brenda and John feel passionate about assisting Bonaire's students with their homework and with improvement of their weak skill areas, particularly with the Dutch language. Brenda enjoys tutoring the younger kids, while John guides the older ones. With the needs of their own child in mind and the possibility of adding more

students, they began to search for a larger space to accommodate their current homework guidance project. They found it. It's also their home now.

Besides providing homework guidance, Kid's College offers Dutch as a second language (Nederlands als *tweede taal: NT2*) with the aid of two excellent Dutch textbooks: *Hotel* Hallo for younger kids and De Opmaat for older ones. Both books connect well with the world kids love and like. Also, by using the interactive LEGO Education series, students

get hands-on practice with what they've learned in theory. Together in small groups, using Lego blocks, the kids work in the areas of Nature and Technique, Dutch Language, Arithmetic and Mathematics, or Human and Society.

Kid's College students come from a variety of countries - the Netherlands Antilles, the Netherlands proper, India, Norway, and Canada -- with linguistic backgrounds to match. One thing these youngsters have in common: they seem to enjoy improving learning and language skills while feeling comfortable and at home at Kid's College. Here is some of what they have to say about Kid's College:

"Brenda and John teach us to learn. They help us with our homework, and we get a lot of attention. After finishing our homework, we can do something of our own choice."

"The teachers help us to get things done.

We also learn to be more independent with the skills you learn while doing LEGO Education."

"KC is more personal than other places. They figure out our personal situation and they help us individually."

"We feel welcome at KC and love using LEGO Education, since it improves our grades. Also we feel better about ourselves and have a great time while learning here."

Brenda and John make sure the students are at the center of learning by focusing on the individual's needs and strengths. By using the book, Leren Leren, Ik leer beter leren (Learning to learn, I Learn to Learn Better), students improve their study skills. According to John, instructors should direct their attention first to teach how to learn.

After children are able to enhance their study abilities, John and Brenda focus on discussing progress with the kids and their parents, always remaining positive, finding out possible behavior issues and connecting with their lives in order to increase motivation. Action plans, created by Kid's College, the students and their parents, are evaluated every three months. When necessary, changes are made and carried out.

When asked about their future plan of Kid's College, Brenda concludes, "Our philosophy is to make children feel good about themselves. When children are motivated, their self-confidence improves, and so will their grades. We want to continue this way of thinking and hope that our place remains a second home for our students. A place where they are the center."

Contact Brenda Brouwer and John van 't Hoff Kaminda Lagoen 50B Kralendijk, Bonaire CN Email: info@kidscollegebonaire.com Story & photo by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour





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Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

Cruisin' And Tourin' – Kralendijk North

CRUISIN' and TOURIN' – NORTH, Part 2 of 2

B onaire is located approximately 50 miles from Venezuela. We even have a Venezuelan consulate here. On your left side you can see Klein Bonaire, which is translated Little Bonaire. It's a wonderful place for snorkeling and diving. Just take the water taxi Anybody in the bus who loves diving? Nobody? What about snorkeling? No hands? Well, I guess I won't be boring you with too many dive and snorkel stories then, since they won't be of much interest to you.

Luckily Bonaire offers, besides water activities such as diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, kiteboarding, sailing, fishing and kayaking, also possibilities for cycling and hiking. For wine-rs and diners, our restaurant and bar scene is quite extensiveWho's all going to have lunch in one of the beautiful seaside restaurants after our tour? Oh, nobody? Yeah, I understand the ship serves up a gargantuan buffet. Yummm!

One of the downsides of cruise tourism is that the majority of tourists aren't willing or rather aren't financially able to spend money outside of their ship. They might spend a few dollars in the souvenir shops, at an ice cream parlor or coffee shop near the ports. In fact, these stores might be the select few which benefit directly from cruise ship revenue. Most of today's cruise lines make sure to accommodate their passengers' wishes from start to finish of the voyage, meaning that all ship meals and entertainment are included in the price (<u>ukessays.com</u>).

These prickly bushes you see on both sides of the road are called Cossie Bushes. They play an important part in Bonaire's ecology. Goats and donkeys, who munch on all green leaves, tend to avoid these, because of the spines . . . Have I ever caught a goat or donkey nibbling on these bushes? No, I haven't.... .Yes sir, you're right, that's a goat eating from the Cossie. He must be really desperate. Well, it is awfully dry this year. Look, Joshua just spotted two parakeets. We call them prikichis. They're both on top of the Cadushi cactus, cuddling each other.... You can't see them? Just follow my finger, right there. They're green, with yellow heads, and they seem to be kissing. ... Still not able to see 'm? Well, here's a picture of a prikichi.... No, they're not edible. Who loves to hear a little history about Bonaire's geology? No one? Well, I'm going to tell you anyway. Here at the overhang of limestone, you can detect how our island rose out of the ocean in different stages, due to volcanic action and movement of tectonic plates. This road on which we are now driving used to be the coastline. Look closely and



View of the harbor looking north



At the cruise ship dock

you'll see the erosion and you can also spot fossils embedded in the limestone. Any questions about this interesting piece of geological history?... Nope.... How much a gallon of milk costs? What does this have to do with the price of fish? Sorry, m'am, let's stick to the topic at hand.

Cruise Tourism in the Caribbean does not always provide money into the pockets of small business owners. But the local economy does likely benefit indirectly. While the number of cruise passengers in the Caribbean is growing, daily spending per passenger, according to *The Nassau Guardian*, decreased some 20% over the last few years. Blame it on the all-inclusive packages offered by the cruise lines, maybe also on the generally weakened economy (<u>researchgate.net</u>).

eat here.... No, it's not allowed to exit the bus in order to take pictures, but it is ok to photograph them from inside the bus.... Oh yes, it's fine to open your window so you can take better photos.... No sir, it's not a good idea to crawl through the window. You will scare the flamingoes away and all passengers of this bus as well.... What the pink dots out on the lake are? Take a guess. . . . No, they're not naked people. Take a look at those three flamingoes. See, they're in a line, and with their legs they're stomping along, trying to loosen up the food so they can eat. It looks they're exercising on the treadmill, right?

The main food source for flamingos is brine shrimp, which in turn eat the algae, and that produces pink pigments. During digestion, these pigments break down, get

required to accommodate our cruise tourists, higher infrastructure costs and most likely environmental costs as well. Cruise ships generate waste streams, such as sewage, plastics, hazardous materials, ballast water, and so on, which may result in damage to the reef, fish and other marine life (researchgate.net).

Here at this point, Para Mira, which means Stop and Look, you can look down at Rincon. Rincon means corner in Spanish. It's the oldest village in the Dutch Caribbean. The approximately 3,000 inhabitants of Rincon are a closely-knit group of people. And they are active in *keeping their past history and culture* alive. In fact, on April 30, "Dia di (day of) Rincon" is celebrated here so that we can all enjoy the local culture, music and food. In the 1500s, the Spanish settled down here because they liked the fertile valley and the cooling trade winds. Also, the Spanish settlers felt protected from pirates here.... Notice the large Catholic church in the center of town.

On Bonaire we have many other religions too: Christian Protestant -- Evangelical, Seventh Day Adventist, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses – also Jewish and Muslim, or you can even start your own religion if you'd like... What is that about The Donald? No, he probably wouldn't be happy living here with all these different religions, and I don't think it's allowed to build a wall around Bonaire ... No sir, we won't be visiting the Cadushi Distillery... How do I like my liquor? Straight up! ... Just joking.... Whether we have a chocolate factory on the island? I wish.

Cruise tourism does bring some money to certain local business, the vendors near the port for example, but it comes at a reasonably high cost, qua infrastructure and environment. Are we, on Bonaire, confident that the cruise ship industry really benefits us? The tour operators sure are! And most love what they're doing: advertising our *dushi* Bonaire!

"Masha danki," which means thanks a lot, for your participation and attention. You've all been very dushi people, and I hope you had a joyful tour. And remember, Tipping is not a bar in China (thanks, Beach Bar for that funny remark, and no S., I don't actually say that, though sometimes I wish I could:)).

Danki for that dollar sir, and yes, I'll make sure to split it with Joshua. Whoopie!

(Thanks to S. F. for her Bonaire guiding lessons. Any mistakes made in these last two columns are entirely mine. On purpose I omitted parts of the North Tour since I didn't want to expose all of our company's secrets in *Cruisin' and*

The lake you see on the left side is called Goto Lake. It contains brackish water, which is sea water, seeping into the lake through the porous coral, mixed with rain water. This area is protected by international treaty.

Our Greater Caribbean flamingoes like

absorbed, and turn flamingos from white to pink.... No, we don't usually eat them.

As cruise ships seem to grow larger (such as those of the Princess Cruise Lines), it becomes necessary to improve local infrastructure, especially at the port site, but the roads, sidewalks and bike paths also become an issue. This means that further investments may be

Tourin'.) ■ Story & photos by Karen Bastiaan Gil-



Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016





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For sale: 13 ft. Boston Whaler boat with new (never used) 25hp Yamaha outboard also includes trailer. \$7900. US contact tel 795-5397 or email rurichard42@hotmail.com

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

			,				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
		04:37	10:58	18:56			
Mon 07		0.01 ft	0.73 ft	-0.10 ft		6:47	18:45
	00:04	05:55	11:56	19:40	New		
Tue 08	0.30 ft	0.03 ft	0.65 ft	-0.09 ft	Moon	6:46	18:45
	01:06	07:26	13:02	20:24			
Wed 09	0.40 ft	0.04 ft	0.56 ft	-0.09 ft		6:46	18:45
	02:06	08:59	14:14	21:11			
Thu 10	0.51 ft	0.00 ft	0.48 ft	−0.08 ft		6:45	18:46
	03:04	10:23	15:27	21:58			
Fri 11	0.63 ft	−0.07 ft	0.41 ft	−0.08 ft		6:45	18:46
	03:58	11:35	16:38	22:47			
Sat 12	0.75 ft	−0.15 ft	0.37 ft	−0.08 ft		6:44	18:46
	04:51	12:38	17:42	23:37			
Sun 13		−0.23 ft	0.34 ft	−0.08 ft		6:43	18:46
	05:42	13:35	18:40				
Mon 14		−0.28 ft	0.32 ft			6:43	18:46
	First	00:26	06:32	14:29	19:35		
Tue 15	Quarter		0.94 ft	-0.30 ft	0.31 ft	6:42	18:46
		01:16	07:22	15:20	20:28		
Wed 16		-0.06 ft	0.93 ft	-0.29 ft	0.31 ft	6:42	18:46
		02:05	08:11	16:09	21:18		40.40
Thu 17		-0.04 ft	0.89 ft	-0.26 ft	0.30 ft	6:41	18:46
= : 40		02:56	09:00	16:58	22:10	0.40	40.40
Fri 18		-0.02 ft	0.82 ft	-0.20 ft	0.30 ft	6:40	18:46
0-140		03:48	09:50	17:45	23:02	0.40	40.40
Sat 19		0.02 ft	0.73 ft	-0.14 ft	0.31 ft	6:40	18:46
0		04:46	10:41	18:31	23:55	6.20	10.46
Sun 20		0.06 ft	0.63 ft	-0.08 ft	0.33 ft	6:39	18:46
		05:52	11:36	19:16		0.00	10.10
Mon 21		0.09 ft	0.52 ft	−0.01 ft		6:38	18:46

REAL ESTATE/RENTALS/ ETC...

Small studio for rent now. With roof terrace, 2 minutes walking from Bachelors Beach. Completely furnished including water, electricity, wifi, TV price \$325 per month. 2 months deposit. Year contract. No cats, no dogs, one person only. Address Kaya Uranus 4b Belnem. Theresebonaire@gmail.com mobile phone 00 599 785-9900 home phone 00 599 717-2698

Retail or office rentals available. Established store to draw traffic, busy road with parking 75m² and 150m². Kaya Neerlandia #21. Call Budget Marine at 717-3710

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Bonaire On Wheels (Continued from page 8) It is Felix Wankel who invented the rotary engine. NSU used the engines in their Spider (1964) and in their NSU Ro80 (1967). The engines were compact, produced a lot of power and acceleration and had fewer parts compared to a traditional four stroke engine. There was also less vibration as a rotor turns and pistons go up and down and have to stop and accelerate thousands of times per minute.

Mazda produced their first rotary car in 1967: the Cosmo Sport 110S. A whole range of RX-engines followed and in 1991 Mazda won the 24-hour endurance race in Le Mans, France, with a rotary car.

Back to David Lauffer. He revs the engine until she is sufficiently heated up to hit the road. Oil pressure is excellent, the booster is building up. A double Weber does its utmost best to supply the fuel to the combustion chambers. Then David shifts the box in first gear and flashes away, a screaming sound behind the car. Up shifting is fast. Gone is the little blue bird! Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;



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Sarden? Just Do K



The author and Manuel at the entrance

February 25th was the official opening by Deputy Silberie of the Botanical Garden of Bonaire. Environmentalist pioneer and educator Manuel, of the *Stichting Ecologisch Bonaire*, welcomed officials and well wishers on this grand occasion.

The garden, which is located along the road to Rincon, just north of the road to Seru Largu, is open to the public Mondays to Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Tours are \$10 for adults, children \$5.

The botanical garden is run on the principles of permaculture, medicinal herbs and organic agriculture.

Permaculture is a system of agricultural and social design principles centered around using the patterns and features observed in natural ecosystems. During your tour, Manuel will fully demonstrate these principles and how you can use them in your own garden.

Medicinal herbs is an area that interests many people. There is an abundance of plants that can be grown in your own garden and Manuel elaborates on how to grow them and what they can be beneficial for.

Organic agriculture is a form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost, and biological pest control. These principles and techniques are being widely

used in the gardens. As a result, plants are flourishing even though the island is primarily dry.

During the tour you will hear about soil regeneration, micro organisms, composting, environmental technology and bio-fertilizers. Manuel explained that Bonaire has a lot of algae which is extremely important for the type of soil we have here. It can help you create a balanced soil and healthy plants. By studying the eco-physiology, and from there the biotechnology from the algae, he is learning about the structure of the algae and its metabolisms.

When asked why is this subject of algae so important to him, he answered, "It grows easily everywhere here on Bonaire and it provides a natural source of protein for humans and animals. Algae is also a good fertilizer for poor soils and important for photosynthesis." Further into the tour, he explained how certain plants can even help purify waste water (*kloaka*).

The topics of the mosquito borne diseases Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya were also brought up and Manuel showed what can be done to assist in the elimination of mosquitoes in your own yard with a few simple, easy and affordable techniques.

Other topics were biomass, which is compost where microbiology processes bring soil into balance. This area of foBonaire's Botanical Garden





Manuel in the garden

Small maishi (sorghum) field



The setup to make cooking gas

cus included the use of different manures from cows, donkeys, goats and even iguanas.

Demonstrations of other sustainable planting methods showed how to use recycled bottles, paper shreds, old tree trunks and pipes. It was also explained how to use old animal bones to provide much needed minerals to balance your garden soil.

The tour was full of interesting information regarding the type of plants that provide nutritional benefits in the form of vitamins. The garden even provides a natural cooking gas system for the kitchen stove.

After the tour, it is wonderful to just

sit a few moments and take in the beauty of the gardens and the nature surrounding it. Manuel and his partner were kind enough to provide us with fabulous tasty and healthy edibles that had just been picked from the garden.

This tour is a must for those interested in creating their own sustainable and eco-friendly garden. Students alike will benefit from this tour as it provides sustainable solutions for future generations

more information: 795-2328 or 786-3370.■ Story & photos by Angliet, Nature lover

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Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016



What's

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.

<u>Saturdays</u>

•Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)-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

#	DAY	NAME	Time in Port	Cruise Line		
Cruise Ship Schedule						
33	7-03-16	Royal Princess 1200-1900		Princess		
34	7-03-16	Azura	ТВА	P&O		
35	8-03-16	Star Pride	0700-2200	Windstar		
36	9-03-16	Aida Diva	0800-1800	AIDA		
37	10-03-16	Star Legend	0700-2359	Windstar		
38	11-03-16	Serenade of the Seas	0800-1700	Royal Caribbean		
39	13-03-16	Star Legend	0700-2100	Windstar		
40	16-03-16	Oosterdam	0800-1800	HAL		
41	17-03-16	Westerdam	0700-1900	HAL		
42	18-03-16	Thomson Celebration	0700-1300	Thomson		

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: <u>Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma</u> and the newest book, <u>Reef Windows</u>. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

<u>Wednesdays</u>

•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 <u>12stepsbonaire@gmail.com</u> or <u>12stappenbonaire@gmail.com</u> 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: <u>info@echobbridgeonaire.org</u>. 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.

•<u>Fridays</u>

•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

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 Crusita 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 <u>bonaireibc@yahoo.com</u>

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

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol-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,

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

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

Thursday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day –PARTY!

Sunday, March 20--Day of mind-

ful meditation from 2-5pm This experience will focus on offering a safe and nurturing setting to begin or expand on your meditation practice, and will foster a stronger connection between body, mind and spirit through non-judgmental and patient practice. Bring a yoga mat, towel, pillow and pad of paper and pen. Please feel free to invite a friend. Price is \$35 for the afternoon, **email**

ann@bonairecaribbean.com



Sunday, March 20 at the Bonaire Earthship 9-4 \$65 advance sale



Sunday, March 27—Easter Sunday

Monday, March 28—Easter Monday—holiday

Sunday, April 3—38th Annual

Kontest di Fli (kite contest), 8am-8pm at the ball field behind Kooyman. Fun for all.

To enter, sign up at Flamingo Book Store on Kaya Grandi, phone 717-6586. Come to see all the incredible kites made by individuals, friend or family groups. Fun for all. Snacks, drinks, music.

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<u>Sundays</u>

•Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6

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



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Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

Free listing in this directory for regular repeat *Reporter* advertisers

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

AUTOMOBILE DEALER

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

BANK

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



BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too. 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.**

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

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 <u>www.bonairevisionfilms.com</u>. **REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS**

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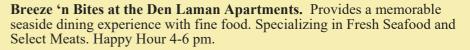
Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit. Ad on back page



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 Lao Belandra the sand.



Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

RESTAURANTS

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 15.

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.

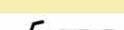
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Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services? See ad on page 5



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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. 19

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Pets of the Week



MEET PETS OF THE WEEK PIM AND REEF

Pim has grown up at the Animal Shelter Bonaire since he was rescued as a puppy. He's become a very gentle, cute and fun-loving one year old guy. He loves to play with his toys and knows how to sit on command. He is easy going and is good with other dogs. He would fit in perfectly as a family dog!

Reef is a sweet, attentive and good looking young girl. She can sit on command and loves to play with other dogs, toys and water. She likes outside exploring and is friendly to everyone she meets.

If you are interested in meeting Pim and Reef and the other pets up for adoption you may visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26a or

call for information 717 4989/ 7014989 E-mail to <u>animalshelter-bonaire@gmail.com</u>



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





Animal Shelter Tips & News

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

Join BON DOET on the 11th and 12th of March the biggest volunteer event on Bonaire!

E ach year BON DOET, the largest volunteer event on Bonaire, sends a huge wave of positive energy reverberating throughout our island, leaving a massive impact on everyone involved.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire and its thrift shop Pakhus di Pruga are also very excited to be a part of Bon Doet this year again. Pakhus di Pruga will kick-off the celebration of the 6th edition of Bon Doet on Friday morning the 11th of March from 8am to 3 pm with an amazing group of volunteers. In the afternoon from 1pm to 5pm and the day after on Saturday the 12th from 1pm to 5pm construction will start at the Animal Shelter Bonaire to make much needed im-



provement to the dog kennels roofs and floors, to keep them safe, dry and healthy. If you would you like to do something fun and have time available to help out or show your support for the Animal Shelter Bonaire in any other way please get in contact. Pass by the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26 or email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or call 701-4989/717-4989 or call the NGO Platform Bonaire at 717-2366. ■ Nathalie Peterson

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Opening hours: 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

Bonaire Reporter- March 7-21, 2016



ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Use discretion, especially if involved with someone from work. Do not trust others with important information. Deception is probable if you don't use discrimination. Try to enlist the help of those you trust in order to fulfill the demands being made of you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May

21) Entertainment should include your whole family. Don't vacillate about asking for assistance if you need it. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate, and it's once again driving you into a lonely state of affairs. Direct your energy into physical exertion. Residential moves will be favorable. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

<u>GEMINI</u> (May 22-June 21) Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly. Don't blow situations out of proportion. It's time you let your true feelings out. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

<u>CANCER</u> (June 22-July 22) Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Time to deal with institutional environments, government agencies, and matters of a private nature this month. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. Avoid purchasing expensive items. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

<u>LEO</u> (July 23-Aug 22) Your involvement in sports or entertainment will lead to new romances. You will gain valuable insight and knowledge through the experiences you have along the way. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. Dealing with in-laws or relatives will not be in your best interest. Luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

<u>VIRGO</u> (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this month. Take a close look at documents be fore signing on the dotted line. Use your creative talent in order to accomplish your goals. Social events will be favorable. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

<u>LIBRA</u> (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. You might get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

<u>SCORPIO</u> (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may not be happy if members of your family are not pulling their weight. this month will be hectic. Sudden romantic infatuations could lead to a significant and prosperous connection. Someone you live with may feel totally neglected. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Some of the best opportunities will crop up if you keep an open mind. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Travel and entertaining conversation will be informative and uplifting. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

<u>CAPRICORN</u> (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will easily blow situations out of proportion. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Help elders with their concerns. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

<u>AQUARIUS</u> (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Focus on your own domestic problems. You will be in the mood for entertainment. Don't forget to read the fine print. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

<u>PISCES</u> (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your ability to be practical in business will help. You may have to take a short trip to visit someone who hasn't been well. You will find that social activities will be enjoyable and will promote new connections. Opportunities for romance will develop through group endeavors; however, the association isn't likely to last. Your luckiest events occur on a Monday. ■ <u>Michael Thiessen</u>



JUPITER AT OPPOSITION

This week is going to be a great time for observing **Jupiter**. On Tuesday, March 8th, Jupiter will reach what astronomers call **opposition**. When Jupiter is at opposition, it's at its biggest and brightest for the entire year, and you can observe it all night long.

Jupiter is the largest of all the planets in our **Sun's** family and is number 5 from the Sun, our **Earth** being number 3. Earth is, on average 93 million miles away from the Sun, whereas Jupiter's average distance is 484 million miles. Those are pretty big numbers and because the planets are so far away from each other, astronomers don't often refer to the distances in the **Solar System** using terrestrial units like miles or kilometers. That would be like measuring the distance from your house to the grocery store in inches or centimeters.

Instead, we use the average distance between the Earth and the Sun as our measuring stick. We call that distance an **astronomical unit or a.u.** So, if we converted our units from miles to au's, Earth is one astronomical unit from the Sun and Jupiter on average is 5.2 astronomical units from the Sun.

As Jupiter and Earth orbit the Sun, they constantly vary their distance from each other. When Jupiter is at its farthest distance from us and is on the other side of the Sun as seen from Earth, it can be as far as 6.2 astronomical units away.

However, once every year, Earth and Jupiter line up on the same side of the Sun and are a whole 2 astronomical units closer to each other. Whenever this happens we say Jupiter is at opposition because Jupiter is opposite the Sun in the sky as seen from Earth. And when Jupiter is at opposition it is always at its closest, brightest and best for viewing.

Jupiter will be at opposition this year on Tuesday, March 8 and only 4.4 astronomical units away. So, this makes it great for viewing in a small telescope. As planets go, Jupiter is enormous. If Jupiter were hollow, you could fit over 1000 Earths inside it, and it has over 120 times the surface area of the Earth. In more down to earth terms, if Jupiter were the size of a basketball, Earth would be about the size of a small marble.



Jupiter also spins very fast. Of all the planets in the Solar System, Jupiter has the shortest day, lasting only 9.8 hours. That means that when Jupiter rises at sunset during the winter months (when the sky is dark for more than 12 hours), in the course of only one night, you can actually see the entire surface of the planet.

This rapid spinning has caused Jupiter to take on an "M & M" shape, and because Jupiter is not a solid body, Jupiter's atmosphere actually spins faster at its **Equator** than it does at the **Poles**, making the clouds form the stripes we've come to know and love.

On Tuesday evening, March 8th, at about an hour after sunset, Sky Park time, look toward the east. You'll see the question mark shaped pattern of stars that represent the head of **Leo the Lion**. Directly below this pattern and just to the right of the triangle of stars marking Leo's tail, you will see a bright, non-twinkling light. That bright light is the planet Jupiter.

If you look at Jupiter through even a modest telescope, you'll see four tiny pinpoints of light which seem to extend out from Jupiter's Equator. These are Jupiter's four largest moons: **Io, Europa, Ganymede** and **Callisto**. Galileo first saw them through his telescope in 1610. Sometimes you'll see three on one side and one on the other, or you can see all four on the same side. It's definitely worth watching.

So check out Jupiter at its biggest and brightest next week. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



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